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The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL.

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1873.

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL.

Daily and Weekly.

LEADING

NNSYLVANIA PAPER.

paper so widely known as the COMMERCIAL can safely refer to its course in the past guaranty for the future. But it will not be ent to pursue the beaten path. The reion of General Grant insures for the counlengthened period of prosperity and pro-. The press is destined to play a still important part as the educator of the le and leader of public opinion. In the re, as in the past, the COMMERCIAL will e content to lag in the rear, but will be up to the times in whatever relates to the ral welfare.

A PAPER OF GENERAL INTELLIGENCE AND MEDIUM OF THE LATEST WS, the COMMERCIAL is widely known appreciated. We expend annually many sands of dollars to supply the wants of public.

A PAPER OF PROGRESS, it will here- continue to maintain its character in this ect.

A PAPER OF OPINION, the COMMERL will continue to discuss men and measwith perfect freedom, and with an eye le to the public good, believing that the ciples of the Republican party will thereby est subserved.

AN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PER, the COMMERCIAL will criticise its party for its own good, believing that in discussion and the independent expression opinion only can our institutions be preed.

A BUSINESS PAPER, the COMMERL will hereafter, as heretofore, employ ry energy in its command to meet the ts of the public. Now that the period of ity excitement has been passed, it will pay cial attention to topics interesting in the nting room, the banks and marts of trade, ing prominence to Science, Art, Invention, iculture and Manufactures.

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A MARKET PAPER its reports will ays possess a special excellence, so that the rer and seller can at all times consult its umns for every necessary information as to es and the spirit of the different branches rade. Everything that is bought and sold the Pittsburgh market and the leading marts the country will receive careful attenand at a fair price.

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SISTERS OF ALL SAINTS.

New Order of Protestant Nuns. Who Labor for the Good of the Poor—Three Distinguished Ladies Coming to America by the Steamer Celtic to Establish a Convent at Baltimore—Their Noble Work in England and France.

[From the New York Herald.]

By the Steamer Celtic, of the White Star line, here have been expected since Saturday three distinguished ladies of the Protestant Episcopal Order of the Sisters Of All Saints, or, as they sometimes are called, Sisters of the Poor. Miss Lucy Hosmer, Miss Sarah Hosmer and Miss Caroline Shore, "Sisters of the Poor." The principal of the gentle visitors is Sister Helen, who, without doubt, [illegible] tion of the pure-hearted devotion and virtue in this city, has decided to make the [illegible] rior of the new establishment in this ne two accompanying sisters are younger

Helen is a daughter of the late Captain of the Royal Navy, of Shandon Hall, and friend [illegible] of the vell, in which she had, from [illegible] ife, exercised the most charming third [illegible] ning self by acts of the most wonderful [illegible] of the kindest womanhood. In London [illegible] ere was no more welcome guest [illegible] r than once been graced with entire [illegible] from the line of her husband's family. About six years ago she had charge [illegible] er hospital, which, of course, [illegible] e could be got to brave the almost [illegible] rs of the position. At that time the [illegible] ctors were all dying, and none of the [illegible] were under her supervision survived. [illegible] surgeon, however, who was very ill [illegible] She was afterwards at the Edinburgh [illegible] and, indeed, seems to have accepted and [illegible] the darkest, most dangerous and disagreeable [illegible] ties with zeal and heroism. [illegible] She was at the University Hospital during the time that the cholera was raging [illegible] with terrible fatality. This institution is in the [illegible] garden of the Tuileries, and she remained there performing her duty when almost all her attendants fled in terror of the sweeping [illegible] ence.

[illegible] Queen sent to Sister Helen to thank her for [illegible] she had done at Marseilles, and to ask her [illegible] rvices at the bedside of that old friend of the [illegible] family, Earl Dudley, who was also dangerously sick. She accordingly nursed the distinguished nobleman, who is a crabbed old autocrat, and whose friends scarcely dare approach him without permission. She treated him like a spoiled child, and he speedily recovered health. After his requests from distinguished persons to be nursed when ill by the skilful Sisters of the Poor became pressing in number, Sister Helen felt that the Community at length felt obliged to establish a refuge in our country, whereby the benefits of their ministrations of charity in London in the hospitals and workhouses.

Sister Helen followed in the bloody path of the Frances Dorothea war, beginning at the great battle of Sarbruck.

The Order of the Sisters of All Saints has not been established more than a dozen years, being the second one within the fold of the English Church, its first house being at Margaret Street, London. It has thus far, it is believed, been entirely supported by the generosity of private individuals, who are interested in its welfare. Its principal object is that of ministering to the sick, and the system of nursing followed by the Sisters is probably the most scientific ever used.

The leading Episcopalian minister of Baltimore, Mr. [illegible], recently wrote to the Lady Superior of the Community in London, saying that there was a great need for the labors here. The present migration is a result of this incident.

The sisters sail from Liverpool on the 20th of last month and is somewhat overdue. The Sisters will remain here for only a short time, as they are needed to feed the future home in Baltimore, which is already prepared for their reception.

THERE will probably be a strong effort made during the present session of Congress to increase the national bank currency. The amount now authorized is $354,317,459. Out of this the six New England States have $108,648,979, while the thirteen Southern States have $29,976,168. New York and Pennsylvania [illegible] over $143,000,000.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

LINSEED TEA FOR SICK HORSES.

According to the *American Veterinary Journal*, this is not only a valuable restorative, but is exceedingly useful in cases of inflammation of the membranes peculiar to the organs of respiration and digestion; it shields and lubricates them; tranquilizes the irritable states of the parts, and favors healthy action. The editor says we have prescribed linseed tea in large quantities during the past month for horses laboring under the prevailing influenza; they seem to derive much benefit from it, and generally drank it with avidity. Aside from the benefit we derive from the action of mucilage and oil, which the seed contains, its nutritive elements are of some account, especially when given to animals laboring under soreness in the organs of deglutition, which incapacitates from swallowing more solid food. In the event of an animal becoming prostrated by inability to masticate or swallow more food, linseed tea may be resorted to, and in case of irritable cough the addition of a little honey makes it still more useful. In the latter form it may be given to animals laboring under acute or chronic disease of the urinary apparatus, more especially of the kidneys. The linseed tea is prepared as follows: Put a couple of handfuls of the seed into two pails, and pour a gallon and a half of boiling water upon it. Cover it up a short time, then add a couple of quarts of cold water, when it will be fit for use.

TO PREVENT CATTLE JUMPING.

A correspondent of the *Vermont Farmer* thus describes an improved poke or jumping stick: First, put a piece across the horns. Then have a piece of hard wood board, one-half or three-fourths of an inch thick and about three feet long. Have a hole inserted in the bar across the horns in such a way that when this hard wood strip is inserted in it, running out over the back, as the animal naturally carries its head, the rear end will be just of the back. Drive three or four shingle nails, ground sharp, into this end, letting them come through three-fourths of an inch, so that as soon as the animal takes an effort to raise his head to jump the fence, the nails will soundly prick his back, and he will be apt to frisk his tail and bound back instead of jumping. Cattle so obstructed will soon learn that it is useless to do obstructed. For cheapness and durability this arrangement is unequalled. It weighs less than three pounds, is not in the way in traveling around, as it is natural for the animal to throw its head opposite to the side it lies on. When they are feeding, it is upright in the air. It never gets out of order, and is with much more propriety where he belongs, sure.

THE VALUE OF CORN-FODDER.

Persons who condemn corn-fodder as "innutritious" are invited by Paschall Morris, of the *Practical Farmer*, to consider the ways of a prominent dairyman "whose butter is excelled by no person in the Philadelphia market," and who "pretty much sustained fifty-eight cows in sowed corn from the middle of last July to the middle of October, and that, too, from the product of three acres." He estimates that he got 1,000 pounds of fine butter from each acre of distance from the space indicated, and he knows that his cows did not fall off in their milk during these three months of drought, but had to be increased in their feed until the butter was fully up to the standard. There is nothing better for wintering cattle or young horses, and especially milch cows, than a liberal supply of fodder, and where forage is scarce, it is of great value to the farmer.

KEEP YOUR STOCK OUT OF STORMS.

A great many good farmers, who have warm barns and proper protection for their horses, are annually losing many animals from being needlessly exposed to the weather, especially on stormy days. We know of some active, stirring farmers, who are always up early in the morning, that have their cattle fed and out in the yard by eight o'clock, in the short, blue days of January. The cattle shiver from the cold, and huddle close to each other near the south side of the barn, that the winter sun may give them a little warmth; and the farmer thinks he is "smart" to have his cattle fed and out so early in the day. But the fact is, cattle are better off in the barn than out on the north side, until the middle of March. Of course they should have wat-r and a little exercise, but an hour or two in the yards each pleasant day is sufficient for this, and the remainder of the time they should be kept in their stalls and tie-ups. Never turn cattle out especially milk cows, during any kind of storm to get a drink. Let them have fresh, soft water an entire day than to let them out an hour to drink, during which time they will become so chilled and their coats so roughened by the driving storm that they require half the night for the animal heat to overcome its effects and get the steam up to a comfortable state. More stock is injured by this kind of barnyards, animals may perhaps be turned out, even in a cold storm, but they will then drink but a few sips, possibly not enough to relieve the great thirst, and it is no uncommon thing to see them utterly refuse to venture away from the protection of the buildings. To compel them to go forty rods in such a storm for their water to drink is downright cruelty. Sheep also suffer greatly from being forced to remain out in daup nights and cold, disagreeable weather. We assure they cold better than storms of any kind; and no farmer should keep sheep who has not at least a shed for their protection of this kind, under which they cannot only remain at night, but also receive their food in inclement weather. For convenient, pleasant, dry yards affords the best place to feed them, and clean snow forms the best feed-rack. It must not be forgotten that an animal exposed to storms, rough weather and cold, must be put to excessive amount of bodily heat, and that this wasted heat must be again supplied from the linseed or fattening, making a double loss; for, so far, the flesh and the blood, which in turn must be kept up by an increased amount of forage. Therefore, in order to economise fodder, and get the greatest profit from the vigor of your animals at the least expense, expose them as little as possible to the cold, inclement weather of storms, and severe winters.

MEASURING HAY.

Several correspondents ask how to measure hay in the bin, or mow or in the stack. Measuring hay depends so much on the circumstances of the case, condition of the hay, &c., that it is difficult to give reliable rules for such calculations. The following are perhaps sufficiently true for all practical purposes:

1. *In a mow*—Multiply length, breadth and height in feet, and the product will be the number of cubic feet contained.

2. *In a round stack with a conical roof*—Multiply the mean circumference by 0.53, and that by the product of the perpendicular height to the eaves; this gives a computing height. Then multiply the square of the circumference by the grand computing height, and this product will give the solid contents in the stack.

Example.—Required the number of cubic feet in a round stack with conical roof, which is 40 feet in mean circumference, and its perpendicular height to eaves 12 feet; 40×0.53=21.2, 12×12=144, 21.2×144=3052.8. Then 40×40=1600, 1600×3052.8=4884480. Now multiply 128 by 14.152, and we have 1808.896, the number of cubic feet in the stack.

3. *Oblong Stack.*—If the stack be oblong, with a roof in form of a triangular prism, to the perpendicular height of the stack to eaves, add one-fourth of its mean breadth for the computing height; then multiply height by the mean breadth, and again by length, and the result will be the solid contents of the stack.

Example.—Required, the number of cubic feet in a stack, with a roof in shape of a triangular prism, the perpendicular height to eaves 12 feet, mean breadth 24 feet, length 36 feet. To 12 we add one-fourth of its (mean breadth) 24=6. 12+6=18, and we have 18×24=432, and 432×36=15,552, which is the computing height; multiply 15.75 by 15 and we have 236.25. Now, multiply 236.25 by 36, and we have 7087.50 cubic feet in the stack.

When we have discovered the number of cubic feet in a stack, we have only to divide by the number in a given number of cubic feet to say, a ton of hay. In stacks that have lain over the year, about 345 cubic, or 7 feet every way, will make a ton of timothy hay, and 512 cubic feet, or 6½ feet every way, of clover hay. In the mow about 7.20 cubic feet, or 9 feet every way, will make a ton of timothy hay.

These are, however, by any means arbitrary rules, as much depends upon the quality of hay, and the manner of putting it in the barn or stacks, that a general rule cannot be obtained without going into any elaborate calculation.

KILLING POULTRY.

An exchange says the easiest, quickest and best way to kill a fowl is to open his beak, and then with a pointed and narrow knife make an incision at the back of the roof, which will divide the vertebræ and cause immediate death. After which bang the fowl up until the bleeding has ceased, then rinse the neck out with vinegar and water. Fowls killed in this manner keep longer and do not present the unsightly external marks of violence, and be out of the inconvenience of wringing the neck. In this connection we wish to impress on our readers the necessity of special care in dressing poultry for the market. Nine shillings well earned will more than compensate for the trouble. Also, don't send in poultry in poor condition—holiday customers all look for and will take only fat birds.

VALUE OF POULTRY MANURE.

From actual experiment it has been found that the droppings from four Brahmas for one night weighed in one case exactly one pound, and in another more than three quarters of a pound, an average of nearly four ounces each bird. By drying this was reduced to not quite one and one-half ounces. Other breeds make less; but, allowing only one ounce per bird daily of dried dung, fifty fowls will make in their roosting house alone 1,000 pounds per annum of the best manure in the world. Hence one-half an acre of poultry will make more than enough manure for one acre of land, say, for carrot, or grass, or beautiful manure even richer than guano in ammonia and fertilizing salts. No other stock will give an equal return in this way, and these figures demand careful attention from the large farmer. Bird manure, before using, should be mixed with twice its bulk of earth, and then allowed to stand in a heap, covered with a few inches of earth till decomposed throughout, when it makes the very best manure that can be had.

WATERING SHEEP.

Many persons are under the impression that it is wholly or quite unnecessary to water sheep more than once a day in winter, and not at all in summer, when on pasture. There could not be a greater fallacy. It is true that sheep and also horses will manage to live, and even do tolerably well in dry pastures in summer, by feeding exclusively at night. But careful examination will show that, if allowed, water will always be taken in small quantities, and usually at regular intervals, and this with advantage to themselves and profit to their owners. There can be no more vicious practice than that of watering but once a day, as many otherwise good farmers do. It has been pretty well demonstrated that a large amount of water taken at any one time is detrimental to health, and especially to fattening animals, as producing an unnecessary amount of carbonic acid. Besides, in winter, sheep on such feed as turnips and turnip tops are watered regularly, will take so much that it chills them, or, if very cold, will not drink at all. But if allowed freedom to drink at will, they will consume only just enough, and that at regular intervals. Therefore free access to water, both summer and winter, or watering regularly not less than twice a day, ought to be regarded as indispensable by every flockmaster. If there is a shepherd who is not aware of the difference there will be in the condition of sheep that have, and of those that have not, been thus watered during a winter, he has but to try it to be convinced.

TO PREVENT SOWS DESTROYING THEIR YOUNG.

Recently a correspondent inquired for a remedy in cases where sows ate their young. We find the following in a monthly report of of the Department of Agriculture, which, although it does not seem to furnish a remedy likely to be generally applied, we give it for what it is worth. No one but the breeder who has the misfortune to see a fine litter of pigs destroyed by their dam—herself perhaps the best in his pen—can have a realizing sense of the annoyance and bitter disappointment such an occurrence involves. The report says:

It is well known that sows not unfrequently attack and destroy their young; or, if prevented from doing so, will eat but little else, so that the young pigs necessarily die from want of nourishment. When this condition of things is not caused by a diseased condition of the uterus, it is said that the sow can be brought to terms by pouring a mixture of tea to twenty grains of the spirits of camphor with one tea-cup of milk, and returned to Dover as soon as in fact it is reported that he said to Harrington, on Friday, that it was the lack of money that urged him back.

Professor West has suddenly regained his right mind. Yesterday he was in consultation with Messrs. Smithers and Ridgely, of the Dover bar, and the presumption is that he returned to Dover as senior counsel to defend him. Just what line of defense things to be pursued cannot be conjectured, but it is believed that the plea of insanity will be abandoned.

Mr. Smithers remarked to a friend when speaking on the subject, that he certainly should not seek acquittal on the ground of insanity, as that line of defense should be entered.

We may add that his subsequent statements are no more to be believed than his confession, but the sentiment of the community adjudges him guilty of the crime, and the jury has been shown facts antecedent to the commission of the crime.

TOOL STEEL.

A New Process for Its Manufacture.

[From the Louisville Commercial.]

A late number of the *Engineering*, an English magazine, in an article upon tool steel, has the following:

"When steel forgings or castings—and especially the latter—are being dealt with in the lathe or planing machine, the cutting action upon the cutting tools is not merely intensified as compared with that which takes place when wrought or cast iron is being dealt with, but in many instances the hardness of the material renders it impossible for the cutting edges to continue quarry to act upon it at all, the cutting edge being quite destroyed, and the consequence is that which will not perform their work properly, and cause losses in many ways. They render it necessary to run the machine tools at slow speeds, and, therefore, thus reducing the amount of work which each machine can do within a given time, and they also cause a waste of labor and also of material in repairing and grinding them, while their use is a source of annoyance and trouble to each one who has a tool has to be changed. It is under these circumstances that a search for a superior class of tool steel has arisen, and many attempts have been made by our various steel manufacturers to satisfy it, with more or less successful results.

"There have been about sixty patents for steel processes and for the treatment of steel, and in all of them, professing to be the ultimation in the manufacture, some of which have undoubtedly satisfied the [illegible] aimed at, as expressed in the quotations referred to, except that of Mr. Thomas Clark, late of the Parkgate Iron Works, Rotherham, who, after experimenting and continually making tool steel of a very superior quality for a number of years, took out a patent for his process was issued on June 26. His process is a most simple one, and although the theory of the action of the agent which can be malleableized is taken and cast into the ingot moulds in the shape of [illegible] packed in cans with annealing sand, and placed in annealing ovens. They are then taken out, and the ingots are then ready for use, and can be turned to any thoroughly malleable. They are then taken out, annealed, forged into the required shape, and then hardened and straightened. One-eighth of an inch is the usual limit of [illegible] ings with shears or other suitable instruments, then "roughed out" on the stones. After which they are sent to the respective makers of [illegible] tools, such as steel tools in water, oil or other tempering liquids, or water tempered, as the case may be. The [illegible] can be made in twenty minutes by this process, which is often reduced to twelve hours after leaving the annealing room.

A REMARKABLE THEFT.

Two Men Steal a Large Quantity of Nitro-Glycerine and Store It in the House of One of Them, With His Wife and Family.

A remarkable case of theft has just been unearthed in Oil City, South Side, which has caused the most intense excitement among the people of the place. The *Derrick* states that the stolen property, which consisted of about one hundred and forty pounds of nitro-glycerine, was taken from the McGrew farm, where it had been stored by the Roberts Torpedo Company. The above being the property of Colonel Roberts and Thomas Griffin, and hid in the owning house of the latter, is the imminent danger in which the people of the South Side were put of hundreds of others. Chief of Police Furlong, and others, are congratulating themselves on their success. The dangerous compound was found and removed to a place of safety. Thomas and Griffin were arrested and placed in jail, and Griffin was committed to jail for trial. The *Derrick* says:

Griffin, it appears, is a victim of a wife and children, the oldest of whom is perhaps twelve years of age. For a long time she has contained large quantities of the article in the house, thus subjecting his family to the danger of instant death at all times. A slight shock in moving the can, or any little accident of every day life, might have caused an explosion which would have blown the house and family into the earth. But with a good fortune remarkable in the extreme, the family have survived all danger and escaped injury. It seems impossible that any man could be so criminally reckless.

The theft was discovered by Mr. Roberts, a very short distance from Marshall's residence, and the residence of J. K. Lowry, Colonel W. P. Fox and others. If the nitro-glycerine taken away from there had been exploded, as it would have been, it would have shattered all that portion of the city. The hill rock of it would have thrown the debris southward, which would have thrown the river before from its piers, and struck Pottage Hill with terrific force. It would have been a volcano in its destructive power.

THE EYE.

Some of the Common Dangers to Which It is Subject.

The sculper Crawford was accustomed all his life to read lying down. To this very largely physicians attribute the loss of his eye. Very soon a cancer formed in the other which caused his death.

The great historian Prescott lost his eyesight when a student, by a bit of bread thrown in sport by a fellow-student at the table. Never be careless in such little matters. A pair of scissors or a fork, thrown in spot or anger, has often caused the loss of an eye; which the wealth of the world cannot replace.

A friend, who was very ambitious to finish a set of lines for her brothers' shirts from out of her time, after stitching, sitting up often late at night over the work, in which she took great delight. The result was the darning up of the second thumb, and regretfully a study to give up sewing, knitting, and reading by candlelight thereafter.

A young lady, who lived but ten miles by train from school, used to say that the ride, though a short, was a delightful one. She was in study all the time, and yet read, thus reducing the amount of work which each morning and evening she had to do. Of course she had to and they caused a waste of labor and also of material in repairing and grinding them, while their use is a source of annoyance and trouble to each one who has a tool has to be changed. It is under these circumstances that a search for a superior class of tool steel has arisen, and many attempts have been made by our various steel manufacturers to satisfy it, with more or less successful results.

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There have been about sixty patents for steel processes and for the treatment of steel, and in all of them, professing to be the ultimation in the manufacture, some of which have undoubtedly satisfied the [illegible] aimed at, as expressed in the quotations referred to, except that of Mr. Thomas Clark, late of the Parkgate Iron Works, Rotherham, who, after experimenting and continually making tool steel of a very superior quality for a number of years, took out a patent for his process was issued on June 26. His process is a most simple one, and although the theory of the action of the agent which can be malleableized is taken and cast into the ingot moulds in the shape of [illegible] packed in cans with annealing sand, and placed in annealing ovens. They are then taken out, and the ingots are then ready for use, and can be turned to any thoroughly malleable. They are then taken out, annealed, forged into the required shape, and then hardened and straightened. One-eighth of an inch is the usual limit of [illegible] ings with shears or other suitable instruments, then "roughed out" on the stones. After which they are sent to the respective makers of [illegible] tools, such as steel tools in water, oil or other tempering liquids, or water tempered, as the case may be. The [illegible] can be made in twenty minutes by this process, which is often reduced to twelve hours after leaving the annealing room.

A REMARKABLE THEFT.

Two Men Steal a Large Quantity of Nitro-Glycerine and Store It in the House of One of Them, With His Wife and Family.

A remarkable case of theft has just been unearthed in Oil City, South Side, which has caused the most intense excitement among the people of the place. The *Derrick* states that the stolen property, which consisted of about one hundred and forty pounds of nitro-glycerine, was taken from the McGrew farm, where it had been stored by the Roberts Torpedo Company. Believing [illegible] ment that formed into caps and Thomas Griffin, and hid in the owning house of the latter, is the imminent danger in which the people of the South Side were put of hundreds of others. Chief of Police Furlong, and others, are congratulating themselves on their success. The dangerous compound was found and removed to a place of safety. Thomas and Griffin were arrested and placed in jail, and Griffin was committed to jail for trial. The *Derrick* says:

Griffin, it appears, is a victim of a wife and children, the oldest of whom is perhaps twelve years of age. For a long time she has contained large quantities of the article in the house, thus subjecting his family to the danger of instant death at all times. A slight shock in moving the can, or any little accident of every day life, might have caused an explosion which would have blown the house and family into the earth. But with a good fortune remarkable in the extreme, the family have survived all danger and escaped injury. It seems impossible that any man could be so criminally reckless.

The theft was discovered by Mr. Roberts, a very short distance from Marshall's residence, and the residence of J. K. Lowry, Colonel W. P. Fox and others. If the nitro-glycerine taken away from there had been exploded, as it would have been, it would have shattered all that portion of the city. The hill rock of it would have thrown the debris southward, which would have thrown the river before from its piers, and struck Pottage Hill with terrific force. It would have been a volcano in its destructive power.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 14, 1872.

Will Not End in Smoke.

There has been a great amount of talk on all sides to-day in regard to the Credit Mobilier. John B. Alley was examined and denied many statements of McComb in regard to the business of the company, and the examination of Oakes Ames began. It was James Brooks, of New York, who McComb testified received fifty shares of the Credit Mobilier. The matter is opening up in such a shape that members of the committee say, with no hesitation, that the honor of the House now demands that the whole transaction shall be probed. The idea held by most persons that there was absolutely nothing in it has wholly changed, and it is now certain that the Democratic side will be quite as much implicated as the Republican. Many Republican members are urging that the investigation be made public, and some members of the committee are understood to desire it, so that there may be no room at any time for the charge that the last attempt was made to cover up anything.

Marshal of Supreme Court.

The Judges of the Supreme Court to-day balloted for Marshal, to take the place of Parsons. There were six ballots. For several ballots Major Nicolay, formerly Secretary to President Lincoln, received three votes, D. R. McKee, of Associated Press, three, and Mr. Kirk, of Ohio, and Frederick Schley, of Maryland, each one. A change of one of the latter two to Major Nicolay elected him.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 15, 1872.

Further About the Credit Mobilier.

From all that can be gathered, the belief is that West had been planning for some time how to get hold of the insurance money, and, having hit upon a plan, the next thing was how to get his victim, and having failed to get one in his dimension, as a last resort he seized upon Turner.

Turner was slain on Monday evening, it will be remembered, and Tuesday West, after making insinuations to induce his father-in-law to endorse for him on one of the Dover banks for $200, but he was refused. It is stated that he represented that a friend owed him $500, and that he had borrowed from some source, hence his need of the two hundred dollars. If West had secured this money it is not likely that he would have returned to Dover so soon; in fact it is reported that he said to Harrington, on Friday, that it was the lack of money that urged him back.

Professor West has suddenly regained his right mind. Yesterday he was in consultation with Messrs. Smithers and Ridgely, of the Dover bar, and the presumption is that he returned to Dover as senior counsel to defend him. Just what line of defense things to be pursued cannot be conjectured, but it is believed that the plea of insanity will be abandoned.

Mr. Smithers remarked to a friend when speaking on the subject, that he certainly should not seek acquittal on the ground of insanity, as that line of defense should be entered.

We may add that his subsequent statements are no more to be believed than his confession, but the sentiment of the community adjudges him guilty of the crime, and the jury has been shown facts antecedent to the commission of the crime.

TOOL STEEL.

A New Process for Its Manufacture.

[From the Louisville Commercial.]

A late number of the *Engineering*, an English magazine, in an article upon tool steel, has the following:

"When steel forgings or castings—and especially the latter—are being dealt with in the lathe or planing machine, the cutting action upon the cutting tools is not merely intensified as compared with that which takes place when wrought or cast iron is being dealt with, but in many instances the hardness of the material renders it impossible for the cutting edges to continue quarry to act upon it at all, the cutting edge being quite destroyed, and the consequence is that which will not perform their work properly, and cause losses in many ways. They render it necessary to run the machine tools at slow speeds, and, therefore, thus reducing the amount of work which each machine can do within a given time, and they also cause a waste of labor and also of material in repairing and grinding them, while their use is a source of annoyance and trouble to each one who has a tool has to be changed. It is under these circumstances that a search for a superior class of tool steel has arisen, and many attempts have been made by our various steel manufacturers to satisfy it, with more or less successful results.

"There have been about sixty patents for steel processes and for the treatment of steel, and in all of them, professing to be the ultimation in the manufacture, some of which have undoubtedly satisfied the [illegible] aimed at, as expressed in the quotations referred to, except that of Mr. Thomas Clark, late of the Parkgate Iron Works, Rotherham, who, after experimenting and continually making tool steel of a very superior quality for a number of years, took out a patent for his process was issued on June 26. His process is a most simple one, and although the theory of the action of the agent which can be malleableized is taken and cast into the ingot moulds in the shape of [illegible] packed in cans with annealing sand, and placed in annealing ovens. They are then taken out, and the ingots are then ready for use, and can be turned to any thoroughly malleable. They are then taken out, annealed, forged into the required shape, and then hardened and straightened. One-eighth of an inch is the usual limit of [illegible] ings with shears or other suitable instruments, then "roughed out" on the stones. After which they are sent to the respective makers of [illegible] tools, such as steel tools in water, oil or other tempering liquids, or water tempered, as the case may be. The [illegible] can be made in twenty minutes by this process, which is often reduced to twelve hours after leaving the annealing room.

DEATH OF EDWIN FORREST.

The Great Tragedian Dies Suddenly in His Bed Chamber.

PHILADELPHIA, December 12.—Edwin Forrest, the tragedian, fell dead this morning while dressing at his residence on North Broad street. Forrest's servants repaired to his room before eight o'clock this morning, as it was later than his usual hour, for coming down. They found him lying on the bed apparently suffering from apoplexy. Forrest had been exercising with dumb-bells, and had evidently partly completed dressing, having been adjusting his necktie when overpowered. He died in about half an hour after being discovered. He leaves no immediate relations, his only sister having died several years since.

PHILADELPHIA, December 16.—The obsequies of the late Edwin Forrest took place from his residence at 2 P. M. to-day. The body was laid out in the parlor of his home and was dressed in a full suit of black. There was a laurel wreath at his head and a cross of immortelles on his breast; across a number of other floral offerings placed around the room. A large number of visitors viewed the remains. A committee of the New York Lotus Club, consisting of Mayor Hall, Col. Thomas Knox, Wm. Appleton and Fred. Gray, left here last night with a large number of actors attended informally. The pall bearers were Edwin Forrest, James Lee, Lewis Baker and Daniel Dougherty, Dr. J. R. Burgess and Dr. Samuel Gross. The hearse was black and the horses were plumed, with the name, time of birth and death of the deceased. The interment was in the family lot in Woodland Cemetery.

The will of Edwin Forrest is dated April 5, 1866, and contains a provision for his sister, who has since become incapacitated by their death. It appoints as trustees James Oakes, of Boston, James Samson, of Philadelphia, and Thomas Forrest, of Philadelphia. It directs the sale of all his property, except Forrest Home, in Philadelphia, which is bequeathed as the location of "Edwin Forrest Home" which institution shall be for the support and maintenance of actors and actresses decayed by age or disabled by infirmities, who, if they be citizens of the United States, shall have served at least five years in the theatrical profession, and if of the female sex, shall have served in said profession ten years, whereof three years next previous to application for admission into the Home shall have been passed in the United States, and in all things comply with the laws and regulations of the Home for the government thereof. But no person whose character shall be damaged by immoral practices shall be received into the Home. The number of inmates shall never exceed the annual income of the institution, and in case at any time the number of inmates shall exceed twelve, the others shall be appointed by the Board of Managers, with the approval of the majority of the inmates as well as of the trustees. Said corporation shall be managed by a board of seven managers, chosen by the trustees, and shall include themselves as long as any of the first named shall survive, and shall continue for the time being. As vacancies occur in the number of managers, by death or otherwise, the only one vacancy shall ever exist at a time. The managers shall elect one of their number as President, and appoint a secretary, a treasurer, and, if needed, a clerk. Except the trustees, no person shall be eligible to the position of manager. The treasurer and secretary shall not be managers. Provision is made for removal for any failure to perform the duties, or any other breach of trust, by application to the orphans' court. The pecuniary benefits are limited to the aged, educational and self-sustaining as well as elementary, and in no way to encourage idleness or vice. Any person who is in receipt of any pecuniary profit from the Home shall be expected to render such services as he or she may be capable of useful exertion. It provides that his library shall be located at Forrest Home, which shall also contain a picture gallery for the preservation of such paintings, busts, and works of private exhibition and historic culture, to which papers shall be admitted. Lectures on science, literature and the arts are also provided for, and celebrations on the Fourth of July and Shakespeare's birthday. The Home shall be open to the public, but no admission to the Home except upon the written recommendation of a manager, or by the President of the United States, or the Governor of the State in which the applicant resides. The testator directs that his library shall be placed in the Home, which shall also contain a picture gallery for the preservation of such paintings, busts, and works of private exhibition and historic culture, to which papers shall be admitted. Lectures on science, literature and the arts are also provided for, and celebrations on the Fourth of July and Shakespeare's birthday. The Home shall be open to the public, but no admission to the Home except upon the written recommendation of a manager, or by the President of the United States, or the Governor of the State in which the applicant resides. The testator directs that his library shall be placed in the Home, which

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1872.

THE Legislature of Indiana has before it a bill making all general election days legal holidays. The State of New York some time ago enacted a similar law, which at the last election was found to be productive of excellent results, the better class of voters appearing in much greater numerical force at the polls than had been customary. One of the dangers to which our institutions are exposed is absenteeism from the polls. Experience has demonstrated that the observance of election days as holidays tends to bring out a much fuller vote of the thrifty, intelligent and orderly classes of our citizens. The subject would seem worthy the consideration of the Legislature of our own Commonwealth.

THE leading papers of New England say that the symptoms of an active revival of our shipping interests are general throughout that section. Life is rapidly returning to channels where all has been sluggish or dead for years. Maine is giving evidence of an unexpectedly prompt restoration of vigor to this important interest, months now being sufficient for the performance of work which has hitherto occupied years. The coast of Massachusetts, also, it is said, rings with *the* sounds of the same restored industry, while the revival is also gradually extending to the vicinity of New York and Philadelphia. These various tokens of a new and successful start in the race of competition with foreign maritime powers are unusually encouraging. Brief as the period of revival has been, the close of the present year will undoubtedly show a marked gain in the tonnage of the country, and consequently in one of its most important interests.

CONSIDERING the fact that the continuance of the Indian Territory under its present form and organization, in a measure retards the settlement and development of considerable portions of some of the Western and Southwestern States, Senator Pomeroy's bill for the organization of the Territory of Oklahoma, with a view to the preparation of the tribes for civilization, is a measure of public importance. Once an extreme border tract, the Indian Territory has now, from its position, become a central portion of the Union; so that its isolation in a greater or less degree affects the material interests of the whole country. A commendable feature of the bill is that it frankly and fully recognizes the right of property in the assembled tribes to all lands in the Territory. The national government being, however, the natural guardian of the tribes, it seeks to place that property in such a position that it may be utilized for the benefit of each individual member thereof, while it stimulates self-respect by providing for individual ownership. There is no purpose to promote the settlement of the Territory by others than Indians. Among the tribes themselves there is said to be some difference of opinion concerning the project; the Cherokees and Creeks being opposed to the measure, while the Choctaws are neutral, and the Chickasaws are anxious for its passage.

GRAVE complications have arisen between Japan and Peru, which possibly eventuate in war between those countries. Some time ago, it seems, a Peruvian vessel, while on her voyage from China with a cargo of coolies, put into the port of Yokohama for repairs. While thus detained, one of the coolies escaped and made complaint to the Japanese authorities of cruelty at the hands of the captain, alleging, at the same time, that he was being conveyed to Peru by force and against his consent. The Japanese thereupon took possession of the entire cargo and declared the coolies free. The captain of the vessel having protested against this proceeding, he was himself seized and given his choice between a hundred lashes or an equal number of days' imprisonment. The action of the Japanese authorities has given great offense to Peru, their assumption of jurisdiction over a traffic fully recognized and allowed between China and Peru being regarded as without precedent in the history of errors. An envoy, backed by a strong naval squadron, has now been dispatched to demand apology and indemnification from the government of the Mikado. What the latter's action finally remains to be seen. The moral sympathies of the Western powers will certainly be with Japan in the controversy.

THE recommendation of the Comptroller of the Currency relative to the abolition of the usury clause of the banking act, and the bill which has been introduced into Congress in pursuance of the suggestion, are favorably commented upon by the principal papers of the country, without respect to party; the hope being generally expressed that the proposed measure may be successful. A strong argument in favor of the passage of the bill, which we do not recollect to have seen mentioned, is the fact that whenever money is commercially worth more than legal interest it will always command and receive more, in spite of any legislative restrictions that may be imposed; for these the business interests of the country have thus far always found a way to evade. The legal rate of interest varies greatly in different States. In our own Commonwealth, as also throughout New England, and in Kentucky and Maryland, it is six per cent; in New York seven per cent, in Virginia, Illinois and Missouri ten per cent., and in Virginia and Minnesota twelve. The penalties for violating the statute are also quite as various. In course of time it is probable that usury laws will be removed from the statute books of all the States; since it is now pretty generally understood that competition governs the money market not less than other markets, and that borrowers will never pay higher rates than their necessities or opportunities render expedient.

THE progress of Japan in civilization is so rapid that it is becoming somewhat difficult for our readers to keep track of its history. The intelligent enthusiasm with which the people of that country have entered upon and are prosecuting their new career, is surprising. The locomotive has been introduced. Steam power is utilized. The electric telegraph has been brought into requisition to convey intelligence in their strange tongue. They have established institutions for finance, commerce, education and religion among the most advanced of Western nations, and have brought men to their own country to carry out reforms. Their latest step is the adoption of a law "giving exclusive permission to trade in newly invented articles," to all persons who may "increase the convenience of life or improve those already in existence"—in other words, they have inaugurated a liberal patent system for the encouragement and development of inventive talent and genius. Add to this the adoption of the press in recent establishment of a system of compulsory education, the creation of a representative legislature, the abolition of a species of slavery which had existed among them for a thousand years, and the general spirit of sympathy exhibited by them with the ideas, sentiments and institutions of the West, and the fact of their advance becomes one of the most remarkable chapters in history.

THE Louisiana muddle is unquestionably bad enough, at the best; but the charge of the opposition press, that the President, in sustaining Judge DURELL of the Federal Court, has interfered with the constitutional prerogatives of the State authorities, is wholly gratuitous and unfounded, so far as the action of this Nation is concerned, the question is simply one of law; not of political prejudice on the one hand, or of political sympathy on the other. The President has no discretionary power in the premises. Judge DURELL is the head of the Federal Court in that State, and the President, whatever may be the character of his personal views, is compelled by his oath of office to sustain the Court in its decisions. If Judge DURELL has exceeded his powers, the remedy is by impeachment and removal. But being in the legal exercise of his powers, and having declared that the United States Marshal was unable to protect his court and enforce its orders and decrees, the President was compelled to respond to the call upon him for support, the assumption being that the facts were as stated by the Court. Judge DURELL represents the law. The duty of the Executive is to enforce it. If he had nullified the action, or stopped the functions of the Court, he would then have deserved the censure which is visited upon him now. It is greatly to be regretted that those journals which denounce his action as despotic, should so invariably get hold of the subject at exactly the wrong end.

THE SOUTH.

Some weeks ago the New York *Herald* sent a correspondent into the Southern States, with instructions to ascertain and report upon their actual political, social and financial condition, impartially and without reference to the squabbles of politicians on either side. In Monday's issue of that paper he sums up his survey of the field. The states that, nothing can be more painful than the crude mental principles of the Southern mind. Very few of them, he says, are informed, or capable of information, as to the public tone of the North. Educated under a vicious school of journalism and stump-speaking, they have been led to believe that it is impossible for a man to differ with them and be honest. With regard to the Alabama muddle, now fortunately ended, the correspondent in the earliest stages of the contest states that in the belief that the election was carried to him by prominent conservatives that a fair count of the vote from the two districts in dispute would show Republican members elect, and that it was hinted to SPENCER also, "that he could fix the matter up and go to the Senate by letting the Democrats have the State government." This would seem to throw the responsibility of the trouble on the party which has complained the loudest. With respect to Louisiana, he says there is no doubt that it ought to be redeemed from WARMOUTH without delay. He further expresses the opinion that if the electoral votes of Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana and Alabama had been necessary to turn the Presidential election last November, there would have been revolution in all those States. Repudiation, he says, is possible as a political tenet and party cry in nearly every State of the South except Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi and Texas. The aggregate State debt of the South is not equal to the year's cotton crop, but the manner of its negotiation and the paucity of its results upon enterprise inspire the growling multitude with the spirit of repudiation, and many of the negroes do not understand the meaning or necessity of public credit. He considers the present government of Georgia to be one of the best in the South, because a higher grade of men direct it, and thinks that if the same class of native white men had come cheerfully to the front in the other States, the Northern carpet-baggers would have done no more than to govern a few years. He believes Governor CLAYTON, of Arkansas, to be a better citizen and ruler "than cooler blooded and nominally more liberal men," of whom he says "they never declared for GREELEY until their nominations were rejected by the President." The prime need of the entire South he holds to be a truce to party politics, and a general appliance of the energies of the people, white and black, to the development of their various material resources and productive and educational interests. In all of which he is undoubtedly correct.

THE INVESTIGATION.

It would seem that mere bewilderment in the public mind is the only result that may be confidently looked for from the Credit Mobilier investigation as it is now conducted. If, for the sake of thoroughness and expedition, it was thought better to make the examination a secret one, then it should have been made secret in fact. Whatever the people might have thought about the propriety or expediency of the method, the report of a committee of the right kind founded on inquiries thus conducted, would still have been upon the whole satisfactory. But as the examination is really carried on, the testimony reaches the public in fragments, along with incidental comments of members and with exhaustory remarks of parties presumed to know something about the matter in hand, and mere confusion of judgment and general suspicion are the natural consequences. In fact, if the object of the inquiry were well understood to be the mystification of the public, with the view of filling their minds with vague suspicions of the dishonor of all the Congressmen whose names have been connected, even remotely, with the concern, the management of the business could hardly have been much different. Unless we are greatly mistaken, neither the prominent man who demanded the investigation for his own vindication, nor several of the other gentlemen implicated in the charge, can regard with the least complacency or approval the manner in which the thing is being done. There is a class, only too numerous, of American public men who are content to live under imputations which render them objects of suspicion. While the charges have not been so clearly proved as to make their truth undeniable and notorious, they feel comfortable enough, especially if they are permitted to enjoy the pecuniary gains by which the charges were incurred. Indeed, if, with fortified with impudency and "power of face," they may hope to turn the charges to good account in the form of increased popular favor. Reminding their constituents that faithful service naturally excites envy and that the righteous may not hope to escape persecution in this evil world, they touch a cord which vibrates readily and are likely enough to gather the fruits of a reputation completely established by such injurious imputations. It need not be said that to prepare the way for such useful revolution of the popular mind, nothing better serves than so to direct public suspicion in any given case that it may implicate and attach to persons whom the people are very unwilling or find it very difficult to suspect.

In the case of the Credit Mobilier scandal some of the brightest names in American politics are involved. When in the course of the late Presidential canvass the charge against them was first published, it was received with mere incredulity by all who still retained any faith in human integrity, and the disgust was quite as general with the unscrupulous partizanship, which dared to impugn the honor of such men, as with the good name over which it opened the national jewels. It soon appeared, however, that the charge against Messrs. BLAINE, COLFAX, WILSON, DAWES, PATTERSON, BOUTWELL, BINGHAM and others, though used to discredit the Republican party, was not in its origin an election fraud. It appeared that in the course of a business transaction or dispute related to Mr. KELLEY, the latter had charged the Hon. OAKES AMES, a member of Congress from Massachusetts and one of the leading men of the Credit Mobilier, on the one hand, the latter had named these distinguished politicians as persons to whom certain shares of the stock of which he had charge had been allotted to secure their influence. Several of the gentlemen thus calumniated, as it seemed, at once and formally denied the charge in terms of unqualified indignation and scorn, and their reputation entitled their contradiction to entire credence. But to the minds of a considerable portion of the public a charge of the kind never seems completely refuted by the mere denial of the accused, and in the present case there were circumstances, such as the official or representative position of Mr. KELLEY, and the notorious character of the Credit Mobilier company, which tended to render the assertion of their own innocence on the part of the inculpated Congressmen less convincing or satisfactory to people of a suspicious nature, than could have been desired. During the last few years the incessant agitation of the subject of corruption, and the aggressive reform movement which has grown out of its prevalence in American politics, have not had the effect of lessening the number of persons of this class. At any rate, the determination of Mr. Speaker BLAINE to have the matter sifted to the bottom, was very natural in a high minded man, and can not but have commended the concurrence of all the other accused legislators who are conscious of their integrity.

Not only to the respective constituents of the members inculpated, but to the people of the country as a body, it is a matter of the greatest importance that these gentlemen shall be completely cleared of the foul imputation cast upon them. It is imperatively required in the interest of morality, of common honesty. There are prominent men in Washington official life, whose reputation for the work of corruption has long been a suspicion if not a by-word, and who care little if any most remarkable chapters in history. The Louisiana muddle is unquestionably bad enough, at the best; but the charge of the opposition press, that the President, in sustaining Judge DURELL of the Federal Court, has interfered with the constitutional prerogatives of the State authorities, is wholly gratuitous and unfounded, so far as the action of this Nation is concerned, the question is simply one of law; not of political prejudice on the one hand, or of political sympathy on the other. The President has no discretionary power in the premises. Judge DURELL is the head of the Federal Court in that State, and the President, whatever may be the character of his personal views, is compelled by his oath of office to sustain the Court in its decisions. If Judge DURELL has exceeded his powers, the remedy is by impeachment and removal. But being in the legal exercise of his powers, and having declared that the United States Marshal was unable to protect his court and enforce its orders and decrees, the President was compelled to respond to the call upon him for support, the assumption being that the facts were as stated by the Court. Judge DURELL represents the law. The duty of the Executive is to enforce it. If he had nullified the action, or stopped the functions of the Court, he would then have deserved the censure which is visited upon him now. It is greatly to be regretted that those journals which denounce his action as despotic, should so invariably get hold of the subject at exactly the wrong end.

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THE INVESTIGATION.

It would seem that mere bewilderment in the public mind is the only result that may be confidently looked for from the Credit Mobilier investigation as it is now conducted. If, for the sake of thoroughness and expedition, it was thought better to make the examination a secret one, then it should have been made secret in fact. Whatever the people might have thought about the propriety or expediency of the method, the report of a committee of the right kind founded on inquiries thus conducted, would still have been upon the whole satisfactory. But as the examination is really carried on, the testimony reaches the public in fragments, along with incidental comments of members and with exhaustory remarks of parties presumed to know something about the matter in hand, and mere confusion of judgment and general suspicion are the natural consequences. In fact, if the object of the inquiry were well understood to be the mystification of the public, with the view of filling their minds with vague suspicions of the dishonor of all the Congressmen whose names have been connected, even remotely, with the concern, the management of the business could hardly have been much different. Unless we are greatly mistaken, neither the prominent man who demanded the investigation for his own vindication, nor several of the other gentlemen implicated in the charge, can regard with the least complacency or approval the manner in which the thing is being done. There is a class, only too numerous, of American public men who are content to live under imputations which render them objects of suspicion. While the charges have not been so clearly proved as to make their truth undeniable and notorious, they feel comfortable enough, especially if they are permitted to enjoy the pecuniary gains by which the charges were incurred. Indeed, if, with fortified with impudency and "power of face," they may hope to turn the charges to good account in the form of increased popular favor. Reminding their constituents that faithful service naturally excites envy and that the righteous may not hope to escape persecution in this evil world, they touch a cord which vibrates readily and are likely enough to gather the fruits of a reputation completely established by such injurious imputations. It need not be said that to prepare the way for such useful revolution of the popular mind, nothing better serves than so to direct public suspicion in any given case that it may implicate and attach to persons whom the people are very unwilling or find it very difficult to suspect.

In the case of the Credit Mobilier scandal some of the brightest names in American politics are involved. When in the course of the late Presidential canvass the charge against them was first published, it was received with mere incredulity by all who still retained any faith in human integrity, and the disgust was quite as general with the unscrupulous partizanship, which dared to impugn the honor of such men, as with the good name over which it opened the national jewels. It soon appeared, however, that the charge against Messrs. BLAINE, COLFAX, WILSON, DAWES, PATTERSON, BOUTWELL, BINGHAM and others, though used to discredit the Republican party, was not in its origin an election fraud. It appeared that in the course of a business transaction or dispute related to Mr. KELLEY, the latter had charged the Hon. OAKES AMES, a member of Congress from Massachusetts and one of the leading men of the Credit Mobilier, on the one hand, the latter had named these distinguished politicians as persons to whom certain shares of the stock of which he had charge had been allotted to secure their influence. Several of the gentlemen thus calumniated, as it seemed, at once and formally denied the charge in terms of unqualified indignation and scorn, and their reputation entitled their contradiction to entire credence. But to the minds of a considerable portion of the public a charge of the kind never seems completely refuted by the mere denial of the accused, and in the present case there were circumstances, such as the official or representative position of Mr. KELLEY, and the notorious character of the Credit Mobilier company, which tended to render the assertion of their own innocence on the part of the inculpated Congressmen less convincing or satisfactory to people of a suspicious nature, than could have been desired. During the last few years the incessant agitation of the subject of corruption, and the aggressive reform movement which has grown out of its prevalence in American politics, have not had the effect of lessening the number of persons of this class. At any rate, the determination of Mr. Speaker BLAINE to have the matter sifted to the bottom, was very natural in a high minded man, and can not but have commended the concurrence of all the other accused legislators who are conscious of their integrity.

Not only to the respective constituents of the members inculpated, but to the people of the country as a body, it is a matter of the greatest importance that these gentlemen shall be completely cleared of the foul imputation cast upon them. It is imperatively required in the interest of morality, of common honesty. There are prominent men in Washington official life, whose reputation for the work of corruption has long been a suspicion if not a by-word, and who care little if any ethical interest except as a warning to young politicians. But the general belief that some of the gentlemen of heretofore stainless name alleged in this case to have sold their influence and votes to a rich corporation were really guilty of the charge, would be nothing less than a fearful national calamity. One immediate effect of such belief would be a lower standard of reputation of the nation abroad, and the influence of the example would be depressing upon the moral tone of the country, while the fact might well seem portentous as foreshadowing in the future a condition of affairs not pleasant to contemplate. Hence even those who refuse themselves to entertain any doubt as to the innocence of the accused cannot but wish that the investigation shall be so thorough and impartial as not only to acquit them but to render it impossible for even the most uncharitable to suspect them. If the inquiry is to be of the perfunctory sort, or the so-considered as merely to confine the public by diffusing and distributing suspicion, it would have been much better to let the subject rest where it was at the convening of Congress.

THURLOW WEED'S LETTER.

THURLOW WEED's letter on Civil Service Reform, in which he objects to the system as a plausible theory which "will be found utterly impracticable," when attempted to be carried out, is much below that sagacious politician's ordinary range of comprehension and insight. In the first place, he does not state the nature and objects of the system quite fairly. It is not expected to prove a panacea for all "existing political abuses," nor to cure "all the evils connected with appointments to office in all the civil departments of the government." No such expectations are entertained of it. Mr. WEED cannot but be aware that its operations are limited to a certain class of public offices—neither is he ignorant of the fact that the system of competitive examinations, upon whose insufficiency as a test of the intrinsic qualifications of applicants for appointment he places so much stress, is only one of the several features of the plan, and that it is in contemplation to modify this as the best interests of the public service may seem to require. Mr. WEED acknowledges that the "generally utter disregard of fitness" heretofore exhibited by Senators and Congressmen in procuring appointments for their friends, "did much to render civil service reform necessary and popular." Very well. The necessity of reform being conceded, his whole argument against it becomes vitiated, inasmuch as the rules governing appointments are tentative and experimental, to be altered and varied in such manner as experience shall suggest. Another objection urged by Mr. WEED seems singularly ill taken. He says that if all the people have not a right to "compete" for the honors and emoluments of office, Republican institutions are a sham and a fraud. Granted. And this, among other things, is what is contemplated by the reform. If there is to be "competition," there must of course be a certain general standard of qualifications established, unless the old method of favoritism and scrambling which, according to the objector's own showing, often resulted in appointments "in utter disregard of fitness," is to be continued. One would almost suppose that any change from such a state of affairs must needs be for the better. Mr. WEED has here presented the case of the advocates of the reform in so strong a manner that he is himself unable to answer it. His further objection that when a vacancy occurs in an important office, the President, instead of being at liberty to cast his eye over the Union to find the most capable and deserving man, is peremptorily required to appoint a subordinate, is shown to be fallacious by the fact that, coincident with the time at which the objection was being framed, President GRANT was in the very act of selecting as successor to the Postmaster of Chicago, a person other than the official next in rank; the interests of the public service in his judgment requiring this course to be pursued. Mr. WEED confesses that the civil service has heretofore, in too many instances, been simply an establishment for the support of incompetents at the expense of the country, and yet he opposes any change calculated to bring about the reform which he admits to be "necessary." The main purpose of the new departure is to insure competency, integrity, and industry in the various departments of the civil service of the nation. To secure this result the principles of the reform are to be applied, and the people will sustain the movement.

THE Christmas number of that excellent home periodical, the *People's Monthly*, lies upon our table. It is an admirable number, and will unquestionably meet with an extensive sale. Whether considered with regard to its literary matter, the illustrations with which it abounds, or to its general appearance and design, it is every way creditable to its editors and publishers. Some of the engravings, notably the vignette, "Star of Bethlehem," "Thanksgiven," and "A Fashionable Temptation of the Day," are really admirable specimens of art, which will suffer nothing by comparison with the most pretentious of our standard illustrated periodicals. The young folk have been particularly well remembered, a large proportion of the contents of the number having been prepared with special reference to their delectation. Nor do we think either the old or the middle generation can be otherwise than delighted with the broad and cheery spirit of sympathy with the best aims and interests of humanity which pervades the delightful pages from beginning to end. The number is quite in variety of its present enjoyment, and is also full of valuable suggestions of the beautiful Christmas time.

THE champion old lady of them all closed her career in Greenup county, Ky., a few days ago. Her name was ELIZABETH HAIG, and the time of her death she was 113 years 8 months and 16 days old. She came of a long-lived race, her mother having reached the age of 106, but her husband, who was born only one month later than herself, fell short of something over half a century ago at the untimely age of 64. She was the mother of 18 children, all but four of whom she followed to the grave. Survivors—two sons and two daughters—being 88, 83, 73 and 69 years of age. Among the latter is the fifth generation of her descendants numbered by the score—the full list of her lineal descendants being as follows: Children, 4; grandchildren, 18; great-grandchildren, 617; great great-grandchildren, 837; great-great-great-grandchildren, 61; total, 1,537. Such a record to fall back upon, Greenup county, Ky., may safely challenge the world on the subject of old ladies.

A NEW theory of cyclones, which is at least very plausible, has been published by an officer in the Spanish navy. He founds his theory upon the hypothesis that a zone of air, saturated with vapor and compressed by two opposite forces, acquires a power of resistance peculiar to solid bodies, and may, under certain circumstances, break like one. He applies this hypothesis to the typhoons of the Chinese Sea, and shows what is universally known, that their progress is against the wind, and in a southwest monsoon, and that between these two winds there exists in the Pacific a belt which also shifts its position in accordance with the prevailing wind, that is, always on the side of the weaker one. Now, when the belt becomes saturated with vapor, and unequal, the zone will revolve, and, as it finds its direction to be upright, it will move, more or less horizontally, which is the exact motion of cyclones.

A BILL has been introduced into the House of Representatives by a Massachusetts member designed to insure perfect security, and at the same time convenience and economy in the transfer of government securities. It authorizes national banks to deposit as securities registered government bonds, issuing to such depositors circulating notes, and requires the latter to be current and exchangeable, as are coupon bonds at present. Sales and transfers of registered bonds are to be accomplished by the issue in this one at $5,000,000, which exceeds that in the former month, in 1871, reached an aggregate of $929,000,000, and in 1872 $1,000,000,000. The total length of railroad completed in the United States, which exceeds the mileage of all Europe. Our railroads reported one average of 1,000 miles in 1871 for every day, whereas the English lines returned a profit of but 449 per cent.

IN regard to the defalcation of Wm. M. Graham, President, and Charles H. Horton, Cashier of the Whitehall National Bank, of New York City, it is said that certain endeavors to shift the responsibility of the appropriation of the bank's funds on Horton, but it is the general impression that the latter was the victim of the former's machinations. Horton, who is reported to be in a private state of health, and to have met with a severe fall, is a resident of the city of Brooklyn, and at the late election was a candidate for the Assembly. Many of the leading Democrats of the city, at the late election, were in the habit of visiting Horton at the bank, and it is said that certain of the ballots were printed in the private room of the bank. Horton, it is said, is the son-in-law of Mr. Horton, are the two heaviest stockholders in the bank. Mr. Horton was a leading member of the Plymouth Church, and his family are also very much the confidence or respect of the entire community more than he.

THE British *Medical Journal* informs us that the manufacture of oxygen on a large scale by the Tessie du Mothay and Maréchal process is said. The process consists in heating the manganate of soda instead; oxygen is discharged, and water absorbed, caustic soda remaining to be again manganated for fresh use. Upon heating this in a current of air, oxygen is driven off and water absorbed, and so on, the process which admits of a repetition of the process. The oxygen is thus being constantly extracted from the atmosphere. The cheapness of the process depends on the fact that the operations are carried on at a high temperature, which renders the heating of coal gas unnecessary, and also on the illuminating power of ordinary gas in the Galette Siemens furnace being completely consumed in the process, and thus rendered very portable. It may be used as a remedial agent, by supplying any additional quantity of vital air to the atmosphere of a sick room.

A RATHER curious contribution to the incidents of the late Boston fire has just come to light. In one of the stores in the burnt district the porter with the keys of the safe was on hand, and immediately after the fire was rapidly approaching. In his terror he rushed to and fro in the counting-room, and at last grabbing the safe-keys, he hurled them, one after another, in the safe and departed from the burning building. In the great excitement that followed, he had accomplished something to save his employer's property. When, however, the safe was taken from the ruins, it was found that the books were uninjured. The heat which would otherwise have charred and destroyed the books only converted the water into steam, and the latter advertisements are under advisement as the last Boston "motion."

THE *Baptist Weekly*, in an article on crime and criminals, after severely criticising the system of trial by jury, says: "There have been conferences held by the leaders of the criminal class, and who are now of influence in the community, and who are responsible for a different state of things must be had, through the regular processes of law, if possible; but if not, then in accordance with the primary law of self-preservation, they will govern." The *Weekly* openly countenance this experiment, and appears to despair of any better system of criminal law than which have appeared from time to time, and which seem to be looking at the matter from a very low standard of enforcement, however, is the article which seems to imply that a vigilance committee would be a good institution. The writer of the article after all—that is, of course, if other means fail to mete out justice to our murderers.

IN the first three quarters of the year 1872, the imports of merchandise into Great Britain were of the declared value of £219,000,000, an increase of nearly forty-one millions over the value of the corresponding period of the preceding year. The imports from foreign countries were valued at £190,084,750, an increase of £37,000,000, and those of colonies and from British possessions £26,959,956, an increase of nearly seven millions. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures in the first three quarters of 1872 were £151,000,000, an increase of £20,000,000, an increase of nearly twenty-four and three-quarter millions over the corresponding period of 1871. The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise were £68,000,000, an increase of above seventeen millions; and to British possessions £45,159,151, an increase of seven and one-half millions.

AWAY from China we get a prescription for curing the opium habit. More perhaps than we know, this drug is in use in this country. If druggists would tell all they knew about it, it would probably be found that men and women by the hundreds are "the slaves to a habit which all its victims have declared to be awfully distressing." The opium habit is not as general in this one as we suppose the ingredients, and will not be taken as a luxury. It is composed of extract of belladonna, extract of gelsemium, the tincture of opium, ginger and cinnamon, with castile soap to form the mass and licorice to flavor the coating. The recipe comes from a physician of the number of its cures. It is with eating opium as with chewing and smoking tobacco or drinking whisky—the best way to get clear of it is never to learn it.

THE Japan *Gazette* of November 7 has the following items of interest: An elective parliament is about to be established in Japan. Six hundred members will be elected next month. There are to be two houses, the upper of which will be composed entirely of the nobility. The latter is to be composed of the feudatories, eighty-eight in number, and the Hon. OAKES AMES, a member of Congress from Massachusetts and one of the leading men of the Credit Mobilier, on the one hand, the latter had named these distinguished politicians as persons to whom certain shares of the stock of which he had charge had been allotted to secure their influence. Several of the gentlemen thus calumniated, as it seemed, at once and formally denied the charge in terms of unqualified indignation and scorn, and their reputation entitled their contradiction to entire credence. But to the minds of a considerable portion of the public a charge of the kind never seems completely refuted by the mere denial of the accused, and in the present case there were circumstances, such as the official or representative position of Mr. KELLEY, and the notorious character of the Credit Mobilier company, which tended to render the assertion of their own innocence on the part of the inculpated Congressmen less convincing or satisfactory to people of a suspicious nature, than could have been desired. During the last few years the incessant agitation of the subject of corruption, and the aggressive reform movement which has grown out of its prevalence in American politics, have not had the effect of lessening the number of persons of this class. At any rate, the determination of Mr. Speaker BLAINE to have the matter sifted to the bottom, was very natural in a high minded man, and can not but have commended the concurrence of all the other accused legislators who are conscious of their integrity.

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THE SOUTH.

Some weeks ago the New York *Herald* sent a correspondent into the Southern States, with instructions to ascertain and report upon their actual political, social and financial condition, impartially and without reference to the squabbles of politicians on either side. In Monday's issue of that paper he sums up his survey of the field. The states that, nothing can be more painful than the crude mental principles of the Southern mind. Very few of them, he says, are informed, or capable of information, as to the public tone of the North. Educated under a vicious school of journalism and stump-speaking, they have been led to believe that it is impossible for a man to differ with them and be honest. With regard to the Alabama muddle, now fortunately ended, the correspondent in the earliest stages of the contest states that in the belief that the election was carried to him by prominent

GENERAL AND PA

The Mayor of St. Louis has i individual in charge of the Socia in that city, for furnishing the h such luxuries as will offer a premium business. While the money to suppo institution is drawn from the fallen women, the Mayor says, the city has taken charge of these people, and assumes the right to decide how even their money shall be expended. It is the intention to build, from the fund derived from this class, a reformatory establishment in connection with the hospital.

A young colored man living on the Eastern Shore of Maryland has just had a pair of boots built for him in Baltimore, which are eighteen and a half inches in length and broad in proportion. Twenty pounds of calf skin and sole leather were used in their manufacture. Th boy is only nineteen years old, and has not yet attained his full growth. If he has attained the stature which the length of his foot indicates, according to the Greek sculptor's rule, he must be something over nine feet high.

During the season of navigation just closed there have been eight hundred and sixty-three vessel disasters on the Western lakes. Eighty vessels were completely lost. Most of these disasters have occured since August, the autumn having been unusually prolific of severe gales.

England will want in the twelve months between September, 1872, and September, 1873, one hundred million bushels of wheat from foreign fields. She is now receiving five million bushels per week, of which a considerable share is from France, where the crop has been excellent.

The semi-civilized kingdoms of the South Pacific show signs of old age in their infancy. The production of sugar in the Sandwich Islands is gradually diminishing, and so is the population. Feejee calls for Asiatic immigration, for the native Feejeeans will not bend to the hoe.

CAPACITY OF THE LAKE ERIE CANAL—The Buffalo *Commercial Advertiser* declares, after a careful review of the lake and canal freight markets for the season, that the capacity of the Erie Canal to do the business seeking transport by that route is greater than the capacity of the lake fleet to do the business seeking transportation to the East.

The fact of the proprietors of a woolen manufactory in New Zealand receiving an order for the supply of goods to the East India market is suggestive of the great revolution which may take place in the current of trade and commerce when the vast resources of the British centipodal colony become more fully developed.

Chicago packers have thus far silenced 429,430 hogs during the present packing season. The receipts of hogs for the past week add up 124,757.

During the last few weeks large quantities of California wines have been shipped to the East. This year's vintage, in regard to quantity, has been pronounced very good by the wine men, but little of the quality is yet known.

The product of three iron furnaces in Boyd county, Kentucky, yielded more profit to the owners last year than all the tobacco raised in Daviess county, where that staple is largely raised, to all the producers of that weed combined.

The large magazines of the government at Washington, containing 5,000 tons of gunpowder, are the occasion of considerable solicitude, just now, to those living near them, and it is said that the explosion would destroy many of the public buildings and send the dome of the Capitol itself sailing off through space. The district inspector suggests their removal to a safer place.

The protectionists in Italy, encouraged by the policy of President Thiers, are agitating for discriminatory duties against England, and more particularly against Manchester cottons.

A new use has been found for mica. It is now attracting particular attention as a material for roofing buildings, for which purpose it has been found to be peculiarly adapted.

The State of Ohio, according to the report of the Secretary of State recently published, during the last year chartered sixty-two railroad companies, with an aggregate authorized capital of $69,400,000. Also, three railroad companies were authorized to increase their capital stock by $870,000. The Secretary recommends a general revision and codification of the laws regulating corporations, now 250 in number, and some of them indefinite or conflicting.

A large colony of emigrants from the neighborhood of Minden, Germany, are preparing to settle in Michigan. The proposition is to buy a whole township, lay it out in lots and farms of different sizes, and settle about five hundred people at once. The farms are to contain from ten to one hundred and sixty acres each.

To-morrow, Friday, has been set apart, both in the United States and England, as a "day of intercession." Pastoral have been issued by the Bishops to the clergy, and a special form of prayer prepared for the occasion, which is not intended to raise means for the support of missionaries, but to increase the interest in mission efforts.

This is the age of the straightening of commercial routes. It is now proposed to cut a ship canal through the isthmus of Corinth, where excavating less than five miles in length would open communication between the Gulf of Lepanto with the Gulf of Egina and make Athens an island.

In many of the Western States there is said to be constant trouble relative to the legality of bonds issued by counties, cities and townships in aid of new railroad enterprises, and the matter is so continually kept in the courts that the securities in question are everywhere regarded with great distrust, because nobody can tell at what moment their payment may be repudiated by a decree of court or by vote of the communities by whom they were issued.

The Supreme Court of Tennessee has decided that the law of that State prohibiting the sale of "spirituous liquors" on Sunday, does not apply to beer or other fermented liquors. This decision will furnish new ammunition for the controversy between temperance men and their opponents.

The Comptroller of Baltimore are determined that none of the officers of that city shall put on Congressional airs at the expense of the people. A merchant sent in to that body a bill of ninety-seven dollars for penknives and gold pens furnished to the Registers of Voters, and a resolution was immediately adopted disallowing the claim.

There is quite a dullness just now in that branch of the Baltimore oyster packing business which consists in putting up the bivalves in hermetically sealed cans for use in warm climates and distant places. The price of oysters has advanced to a point where the packers say they have no margin of profit, and they are doling but little. There is usually some dullness in all branches of the oyster business for some weeks after Thanksgiving day.

Japan is to be well represented in the Vienna Exposition of 1873. Commissioners, who were appointed a year ago, have been busily collecting samples of vegetable and mineral productions, and articles of native manufacture.

The New Orleans *Picayune* says that the salt mine of the Petit Anse Island, one hundred and twenty miles west of that city, in the midst of the sea marsh, contains pure salt enough to salt the continent for centuries to come.

Days of grace on promissory notes will be abolished in California on January 1st. After that date commercial paper must be paid on the day it is due, or be protested.

The New York Court of Appeals has decided that the usury laws of the State of New York apply to the transactions of national banks, so far as contracts made in that State, and that a violation of such laws subjects the offending bank to the penalty they impose.

Here is another illustration of the inherent evil of the system of strikes. A dozen skilled employees quit work in a Chicago

THE END.

E COUNTERFEITING CASE.

AMATIC DENOUEMENT.

. Swoope Produces the Missing Witness, Mary Mengies.

SENSATION IN COURT.

NEHART PLEADS GUILTY.

se case of the United States vs. Jacob Minehart, ed for counterfeiting, which has been re the court in one shape or another nearly two years, came to a sudden ination on Saturday. After the opening of ... Hoge, Jr. Bucher Swoope proceeded to call the nesses of witnesses for the government as on previous days of the trial. Uriah Kress, a grocer ... Brownsville road, and Herman Mewers, a ... Side tavern keeper, both testified to the comfort dollar notes having been passed on them by ... Cassells. Deputy Marshal Hall testified that ... operas for Cassells had been sent to Williamsport had not been served. Rebecca Albrecht recalled, and identified a photograph of Cassells ... picture of the same party who had given the ... e Hotel at the National Hotel. George Hyer ... fied that Minehart had offered to pay him well ... would get Mary Mingles out of the war.

Will be remembered that the progress of this ... on more than one occasion had been impeded ... absence of Mary Mengies, a most important ... Some weeks ago Mary was almost within ... h of a United States officer at Boston on third ... te, but just as she was about to be taken she ... ished from the affair and from the city, and ... s she had been occupying by way of a back win- ... dohn H. Timmony was subpœnaed as a witness ... witness away, and is now under ... to answer the charge. The Swoope ... s soon post-poned the unsatisfactory ... river, was not to be found, and Timmony was ... ed to the custody of the officer at work and ... after Mary Mengies' whereabouts were disco- ...

She was discovered between the cottage of ... Wanamaker and Mrs. Smith, one residing at ... Negley avenue and the other at Shakspeare, on ... ensylvania railroad, near Greensburg. Ever ... the discovery of the woman's whereabouts ... Mr. Billings, a detective, under instructions, has ... keeping an eye on her. On Wednesday even- ... Mr. Swoope telegraphed to Mr. Kline to bring ... to the city and the officer covered the sum- ... s, procuring the young woman at Mr. Swoope, ... s office, yesterday morning. The fact of her ... ture was unknown save to the few officials in ... secret.

Sam Mr. Dyer rolled from the stand, Mr. ... Swoope was conversing with his client, Mine- ... on the evidence just given. At this moment a ... of good looking young woman of about twenty- ... two or three years of age entered the court ... and quickly moved toward the table at which ... and her counsel were sitting. Her clothes, ... fashion of dressing her hair, and on her head ... my little black hat trimmed with blue. As soon ... she crossed the railing in front of Mr. Swoope, ... quietly said "Come here, Mary." The ... of the latter arrested the attention of ... Shurt and his counsel, Mr. Swartzwel- ... and both looked at the apparent ... Meanwhile Mary Mingles calmly raised her ... and—Sam Minehart, with an involuntary shrug ... shoulders, said, from over the back of his chair, "Good morning, Mary Mengies!" ... counsel replied, "I felt it in my bones." The ... nature on the day before, which is, by-the-by, ... had yet exactly come to an intelligent under- ... ding of the scene. Mary was sworn and placed ... the stand.

Judge McKennan—"What is the name of the wit- ... ness?"

Mr. Swoope—Mary Koons—other wise Mary Men- ... gies.

The announcement fell with dramatic effect upon ... se in the court room. Even Judge McKennan ... ped the interesting proceedings to take a ... t at the much wanted witness. The surprise ... roved to be nothing less than the opening of ... . Minehart kept his eye steadily upon her as she ... the following testimony in a clear voice, and ... break in the attention of the court room, save ... ave for the last four weeks been at Mr. Samuel ... ike's store, corner Penn avenue and Wood street, ... ere I usually buy my goods. I have been ... ing to Mr. Minehart's store for the past four ... s. I first became acquainted with Mr. Minehart ... ut four weeks ago. I was in the store one day ... Mr. Minehart came in and asked me if I knew ... ere was a lady to board. I told him I knew of ... . He said he wanted a room for a friend of his ... ho was in trouble. I told him I would speak to ... y mother about it. I did so, and she said she ... ould take her in. Mr. Minehart then told me ... at the lady's name was Mary Mengies, and that ... e was in trouble about counterfeiting. He said ... e was innocent, but that he was afraid she ... ould be arrested. He said he would pay my ... other $10 per week for her board. I told my ... other what he said, and she said she would take ... er in. Mr. Minehart then told me to bring her ... o my mother's house. I did so. I brought her ... o my mother's house on Wednesday, the 30th of ... October. She remained at my mother's house ... ntil Friday, the 1st of November. I then left ... er there. I saw her again on Saturday, the 2d ... November. She was then at my mother's house. ... I saw her on Sunday, the 3d of November, at ... y mother's house. I saw her on Monday, the ... th of November, at my mother's house. I saw ... er on Tuesday, the 5th of November, at my ... other's house. I saw her on Wednesday, the ... th of November, at my mother's house. 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The Pittsburgh ...mber 21, 1872.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1872.

It is reported that General Harry White intends to resign his position as a member of the State Constitutional Convention, in order to retain his seat in the Senate, since he cannot occupy both positions simultaneously. Should this purpose be carried out it is rumored that Hon. Francis Jordan will be chosen to fill the vacancy.

Several influential newspapers of the State are urging the Constitutional Convention to prohibit the Legislature from passing any law levying a militia tax. The militia laws are certainly very defective, and in many sections of the State are almost a dead letter. Unless we can have a much better militia system than at the present, the authority to legislate on the subject ought to be withheld.

There is said to be some hope that the country may presently be rid of that venerable abuse known as the franking privilege. It will be remembered that the House, on the closing day of the last session, passed a bill abolishing the same. It is now before the Senate Post-office Committee, and strong hopes of its passage are entertained by those claiming to be familiar with the sentiment of the Senate regarding the subject. The sooner the better.

Late English papers give the details of a recent meeting of the principal iron-masters of Monmouthshire and South Wales, held to consider the position and prospects of the trade. A reduction of ten per cent. in the rate of wages was unanimously agreed upon, the step being rendered necessary in consequence of the scarcity of orders for manufactured iron, it having been found impossible to keep the work going at ruling rates. The price of rails was also reduced between thirty and forty shillings a ton. This reduction will, it is said, not only affect the iron-workers, but also the colliers employed by the iron-masters, as well as those employed by the steam coal owners throughout Monmouthshire and South Wales. Taken altogether, the condition of the trade would appear to be of a quite unsettled character.

The latest intelligence from Japan would seem to effectually dispose of the rumors which have been current that a reactionary movement had set in among the authorities of that country. According to these accounts the government contemplates the immediate establishment of a comprehensive educational system, including eight colleges, two hundred and fifty-six high schools, and upwards of fifty-three thousand public schools, at which the attendance is to be compulsory for all children of the above sex. A House of Peers of Parliament is also to be established, consisting of six hundred members, and divided into two Houses, but whether both are to be elective was not, at the time of the departure of the mail, clearly understood. Considering the fact that it is only eighteen years since the first treaty of commercial alliance was entered into between the United States and Japan, and only nine years since that Empire commenced to adopt any of the elements of Western civilization, its progress in the direction of popular freedom may be considered truly remarkable.

The agitation for a remodeling of our existing jury system, to which we recently made reference, progresses apace; being stimulated by the measure now pending in the Legislature of Indiana, looking to the substitution of a *majority jury verdict for an unanimous agreement*, as at present required. It is maintained in some quarters that the unanimity now required in order to a verdict, would be better to submit all cases to the arbitrament of two or three judges, and to abolish the jury system *in toto*. In Germany, when the vote of the jury stands six to six, the prisoner is acquitted, while a vote of seven against five leaves the decision to the Court, and a vote of eight against four convicts the prisoner. The system is said to work well, conducing alike to the safety of society and the ends of justice. The Indiana amendment, which will at least provide a way for securing men of intelligence and character as jurors, particularly in capital cases, will also, in course of time, undoubtedly be devised in our own country. And the present discussion of the defects of the system in vogue will be likely to hasten it.

The railroad question continues to grow in importance. Following the example of Illinois, the Indiana Legislature has passed a law fixing the rates of fare for passengers and the charges for freights on all railroads in that State. Similar measures are, it is said, about to be proposed in some other States. The question of how far Congress possessed the right to regulate commerce among the States as regards oppressive charges by railroads, is also before that body; a resolution having last week been adopted by the House, instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire and report what power Congress possesses *in regulating commerce among the several States, in so far as such commerce is transported on railroad and other lines of transportation organized and conducted under the laws of the various States*, and whether such power includes the power to prohibit oppressive or unequal charges or discrimination made by such common carriers on their way through another State. There can be no possible objection to such an inquiry, and the report of the Committee will be looked for with general interest.

The *Financial Chronicle* says considerable satisfaction is expressed in financial circles generally over the House passage of Congressman Dawes' bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue coupon bonds in exchange for registered bonds, thus facilitating the conversion of either form of bonds into the other. A similar bill is before the Senate, and should the measure will, no doubt, become a law. Capitalists generally are especially interested in this enlargement of their facilities for the sale of the six per cent. bonds deposited at Washington in proportion as they are replaced with five per cents. The new law when passed will give the banks all the facilities they want for this purpose. The necessity of the law arises out of the fact that although coupon bonds can by law be exchanged at Washington for registered bonds, ing to or been long so convertible at will, yet the registered bonds had not the same privilege of conversion, and the holder of a registered bond had no power of converting it *into a coupon bond except by selling the one* in the market and buying the other, which often caused a slight loss to the owner, because of the difference in price.

A good story is told of Alphonse Karr, the French journalist, who referring recently to the agitation for amnesty to the Communists, said: "In principle I am in favor of such a step, but I wish first to know whether, if we were to pardon the Communists, they would amnesty us." The administration every day furnishes new evidences of the fact that it has set itself to the obliteration of the prejudices engendered by the war, and to the promotion of the best interests of the whole people, irrespective of party lines and creeds. Some of the opposition leaders, however, utterly refuse to accept the proffered olive branch, but insist, instead, on keeping up the crack of the Bourbon whip. Ex-Governor Means, for instance, the newly-elected United States Senator from North Carolina, has been formally read out of the Democratic party, notwithstanding that no longer ago than last August he was the candidate of that party for the office of Governor of the State. He is admitted to be a man of eminent ability and of irreproachable character; but his offense is that he was chosen Senator by Republican votes, in opposition to Vance, a bitter and relentless rebel during the war, and an uncompromising unreconstructed since. We respectfully submit that it is time for this bitter bigotry to be finally squelched.

It is now said that a considerable portion of the several cargoes of destitute Italian immigrants who have been landed at the port of New York within the last few weeks, are criminals who have been deported at the instance, or at least with the knowledge and consent, of the Italian authorities. This is a matter which would seem to call for immediate investigation and protest on the part of the general government. Between two and three thousand of these immigrants have been landed on our shores within the past month, a part of them during the present week, and it is said that the shipments from Italy are still going on. Not one in a hundred of the number has, it is stated, the slightest acquaintance either with the language, character or institutions of this country, while there are not more than a score of artisans, skilled or unskilled, among the entire lot. All of them are without plans or means, and most of them are said, by the older Italian residents of New York, to belong to the chronically incapable, indolent and useless classes. Many, it appears, were under the impression that their destination was South America, while a few were induced to emigrate with the expectation of immediate employment at high wages. Whether considered in its paupor or criminal aspect, the matter calls for prompt and earnest attention on the part of the proper authorities.

We have before noted the progress of the controversy between the people and the railroads. The matter has at length reached Congress. Last session the House Committee on Commerce were charged with the duty of investigating charges of unfairness on the part of transportation companies; the principal charge being that the companies carried through passengers and freight at losing prices, making the losses good by heavy overcharges in local passenger and freight rates. It is said that the Committee have found the complaint to be, in many instances, true, and they propose to remedy it by Congressional enactment, on the constitutional ground that Congress can regulate commerce between the States. A bill has therefore been prepared, which it is proposed, if possible, to press to passage during the present session, providing that way passengers and freight shall not be subjected to higher rates of charge per mile than the lowest rates charged by the same line for the same service over any other part of the line, and entailing persons subjected to such discriminative charges to recover the excess, with costs and counsel fees. The provisions of the act apply to all common carriers in carrying passengers or freights from one State to or through another State. The bill will be likely to give rise to a lively discussion.

THE UNHAPPY SOUTH.

One of the leading New York journals is calling on President Grant to interpose his authority and influence for the salvation of the South. It is impossible to tell or to conjecture precisely in what manner or to what extent the newspaper referred to, desires the President to intervene in Southern affairs. When thinking on the subject, one soon becomes involved and embarrassed in the reflections which connect themselves with the popular form of our government, and with the limitations of the national constitution. No doubt a sagacious administrator invested with the powers of a Roman proconsul, or even with the influence and its associated military force of an English viceroy, could in the course of a few months restore order to be followed in the course of a few years by general prosperity in the South. This resource may not be thought of as belonging to the possibilities of the position. Even the time for martial law and military government under Presidential or Congressional auspices has gone by, never to return, we trust, for the people of the South of both races. Under the conditions which they have inherited by their own acts, must be left to themselves, by means of their own State and municipal machinery of polity and laws to work out their own destiny, whether it is to culminate in social and industrial prosperity, or in general shipwreck and ruin.

Americans of the North must find it impossible otherwise than by making a special study of the subject, to understand in their details and complications the facts and disputes by which Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama and perhaps other of the Southern States are agitated. Essentially they are mere scrambles for office among adventurers, of whom, perhaps, not one possesses such qualifications for the place to which he aspires as would recommend him to a really enlightened community. Happily, the Northern people the grounds of these feuds are an unimportant and as destitute of interest as the ancient wars between the cranes and the pigmies, or as the modern wars between the kites and the crows. Neither the people of the North nor their representatives are qualified to sit in judgment upon these local controversies. If the citizens among whom they arise permit them to grow and continue until they result in anarchy and petty civil wars, the fact simply proves that the citizens are either not fit for self-government, or that for some reason they do not choose to exercise the rights. And in the case of either of those parts of the Southern country in which the scoundrels and the ignoramuses have without hindrance or interruption combined their forces for the perpetration of colossal robberies under the forms of law, and have thus reduced great States, distinguished in former times for financial integrity and soundness, to the verge of bankruptcy. If these are the legitimate outcome of self-government by the people in those States, then there can be no question longer about their competency for the functions. They can not govern themselves.

In fact there are few communities, if a single one, in the United States, so generally pervaded by intelligence and virtue, that social, economical and political shipwreck would not be the result of surrendering the government into the hands of its ignorant and dishonest members. Look back at New York city, ruled by the Ross and the low Irish; prolonged a few years more the rule of Tammany would have rendered even the New York treasury bankrupt and worse. It continued neither life nor property was secure. The reign of the Vigilance regime in the metropolis will illustrate the regime which arose in the Southern States after the war. In New York the mercantile and well to do classes, devoted either to business or amusement or intellectual pursuits, thought they had no time, as they certainly had no inclination, to attend to municipal affairs. Some of them fastidiously shrank from the *vulgar* associations of the concern; others despaired of making their influence felt in the control of the government; others deliberately estimated the money value of their time and concluded that, after making allowance for the robbery resulting from their neglect, they would be gainers in the end, and still others abstained from participation in city politics in mere indolence. The deplorable results of the indulgence are familiar to all the world in the facts which show what rascality and ignorance united can do when permitted to bear rule. And in the Southern States the truth has been exemplified on a much more extensive scale.

No thoughtful Northern man regarded without grave misgivings and apprehensions the necessity of conferring the right of suffrage on the freedmen. Mr. Bancroft, in his history of the United States, apologizing for American slavery, asserted that the morals of mankind there was no other instance of a people rising in a little more than two hundred years from so low a grade of barbarism to so high a grade of civilization as had been attained by the negroes in their state of servitude. And, no doubt, the slaves of the South had acquired some of the elements of civilization. Immediately on their emancipation they were made as well as unreflective traders, ing in the duties of citizenship as the illiterate Celts from Tipperary, whom we are wont to hail as valuable accessions to the ranks of republican pupilage. And yet the act which at once admitted so many utterly ignorant negroes to all the privileges of American citizenship could be justified only by the necessity of the case. The ballot was indispensable to the freedmen as a means of self-defence, and, under the circumstances, to withhold it would have been an act of cruelty. If are also fully warranted by the results of the experiment in thinking that, if the respectable white population of the South had early accepted the situation as final and unchangeable, and had sincerely tried to make the best of it, at least very many of the evils of which they now complain would have been avoided. The conduct of the slaves during the war and after its close proved that their late owners had only to adapt themselves to the new position assigned them, in order to retain to a great degree the confidence of the freedmen, and to rule them by persuasion and conviction as they had formerly ruled them by authority and force. By courteous and conciliatory treatment of Northern visitors who proposed to settle in the country they might have secured in a better class of carpet-baggers so-called, coadjutors who would have aided them in the reorganization of their society on satisfactory and durable foundations. In a word, they might, in all human probability, have controlled the illiterate element with which they had to do, as long before now to have restored a good measure of prosperity to their States. But the curse of the institution for which they rebelled, was still upon them in its deadly fruits, arrogance, indolence of nature, ignorance of business, and utter unadaptation to the struggles of a free society. They overrated their own importance to the nation, failing to comprehend how completely the system in vogue had been belonged to the past, and how soon they would themselves be pushed aside or swept down and almost forgotten, except as they might establish themselves in the new order of things introduced. Either fiercely resisting reconstruction, and hoping for a backward revolution, or keeping aloof in sullen a pathy from the newcomers about them, and avoiding all attempt to influence for either good or evil the lately enfranchised slaves, they have allowed all political power to pass into the hands of men foreign to the State. As to the evils of carpet-bag rule in many cases, there can be no doubt. As a general thing a slave was never able to understand the sacred distinction of *meum* and *tuum*, and it is not remarkable that the freedmen for the most part fail to comprehend either the importance or even the nature of financial credit. Even when honest in their way, they cannot always understand why a rascal, if kind and complaisant to them, should not be placed in a position of trust and responsibility.

But, as we have already said in substance, it does not seem that the people of the North or the national government can do anything to remedy a state of things which originated with the sufferers, and which, unless remedied by them, must be left to work its own cure. Though a lamentable spectacle, it is really less lamentable and hopeless than the spectacle presented by the South in the days of slavery.

There is a widespread discontent in England, among the lower classes, which indicates radical changes in the structure of society and government. Free trade in land is a sentiment that is gaining strength rapidly, and it is held that the land-holders, who stand thirty thousand to thirty million, will have to accept free trade in land if they wish to avoid measures which will have less regard for their interests. The redistribution of political power, and the right of the agricultural laborers to the franchise, have become subjects of general discussion, and are urged as a cure for the oppressions to which the tillers of the soil are subject. The openness of the agitation, and the boldness of a class heretofore regarded as among the most abject and conservative, have excited no little alarm. The terrors of the law, the admonitions of the clergy, and other influences usually employed to allay popular discontent, have proved utterly useless, and trouble is apprehended unless large concessions are made. The spirit of insubordination has spread to other classes, as was evinced in the late successful strike for higher wages among the police of London, and the still more recent strike of the gas stokers. The working classes are discovering their own strength through these movements, and their discontent is taking practical shape in the different schemes of reform.

PROHIBITION CONVENTION.

Though entire harmony did not mark the proceedings of the Prohibition Convention lately held in Pittsburgh, it is due to those enthusiastic reformers to say that, as to the main matter, the policy which they assembled to support and recommend, they seemed to be completely agreed. Some points of minor importance gave rise to controversy, but with respect to the right of a bare majority of the population of Pennsylvania to regulate the drinking and eating of the minority, triumphant union reigned among them.

What impression, whether favorable or unfavorable, they may have made upon disinterested spectators of their deliberations we are unable to report. It is, however, evident that even among persons fully convinced of the futility of their scheme, an indisposition exists to criticise people whose intentions are so manifestly good. Intemperance, a frightful evil wherever it prevails, is a truly appalling evil in this country, where from certain peculiarities of the climate ardent spirits are more rapid and destructive in their effects than in any other portion of the world. Then the wide prevalence of the belief that, in view of the peril of even a moderate use of the fascinating beverage and of its utter inutility, all would act wisely in abstaining, tends to enlist sympathy in favor of the most mistaken efforts for the arrest of the mischief. The misfortune is that these efforts sometimes instead of staying, really tend to promote the evil against which they undertake to war.

These prohibitionists in their indiscriminate warfare on drunkenness themselves exemplify intemperance in one of its most offensive and injurious forms. Confidently and pompously proclaiming that "temperance men" (of course all who favor temperance), "are to-day prohibitionists," they make no distinction between one intoxicating beverage and another, and vehemently demand that government shall take the matter in hand, and render abuse impossible by abolishing use. Manifestly while a vast majority of the people of Christendom shall continue to regard wine and beer as good and wholesome drinks, a very large minority at least, in the United States, will continue to sanction the common taste. We should risk little in saying that a majority in the United States will continue to sanction the taste both in theory and practice. But assuming that a majority favored prohibition, they could impose their mind upon the minority only by the exercise of the grossest and most disgusting tyranny.

> The people's voice is odd,
> It is and it is not the voice of God.

The law would be utterly ineffective and would be defied and thwarted in a dozen ways more demoralizing to the community and its members than intemperance. Laws are valid only where they are sustained by the general sentiment of the people for whom they are made.

If prohibition as regards all intoxicating beverages is right and expedient, it is difficult, to perceive any limit to the practical application of the principle. If the majority insistently with republican liberties, may supervise and control the public taste in the matter of drink, why may they not with equal reason and authority take charge of the pantries of the people, and determine what they shall and shall not be eaten? There is literally no limit to which this spirit of meddling, especially if once indulged, and possibly encouraged by some seeming temporary good results, may not extend. Probably some of the prohibitionists have already been casting side glances at certain common articles of diet, which seem to them to call for abolition or regulation. One may anticipate almost any day an invasion from them of the tea-pot, their hobby over a solemn ordinance of Christ, and would prevent the use of wine even in the celebration of the eucharist.

But the most injurious effects of the prohibition agitation consis s in its tendency to change the true relations of the subject of temperance. Temperance is a virtue—one of the cardinal virtues in the classification of old writers. Its limits and its flourishes or declines under the direction of the will and the conscience, however the latter power may be defined. Temperance is self-restraint; the Greeks called it *sophrosune*, or soundness of mind. Intoxicating drink is only one of the manifold temptations which it is called to resist. Temperance principles that may be depended upon can be established in the individual only by careful training in youth and by a healthy public sentiment in the community, which frowns upon excess in one direction as much as in another. But to represent drunkenness as chiefly a misfortune, and to cast whatever moral blame attaches to it upon the rum sellers, as they are called, are ways of thought and speech purely mischievous in their influence. Topers who have some conscience left, or some reminiscences of former respectability, which generally found warmly in favor of prohibition, at least in their sober moments. They also greatly relish the violent denunciations directed against tavern keepers. Young fellows fond of drink are also likely enough to reflect that the community or the government is bound to come to their rescue, and remove temptation from their path. In this remedy is and will remain impracticable while insisted upon as a personal freedom, and it is idle to look to any other more satisfactory resources against the prevailing vice than the sound moral education of youth and the cultivation of a public sentiment which shall regard the tippler with the same contempt and disgust with which it regards some other forms of self-indulgence. While he is simply pitied and the blame is thrown upon others, even a beginning of reformation is hardly to be expected.

The coke manufacturing industry of the country recently made a successful movement in Congress for protection of its interests in the branch of business in which they are engaged. The bill before the last Congress placed on the free list a large number of paints and colors, in the manufacture of which large sums have been invested. They represented to Congress that the encouragement of home industry was the settled policy of the government; that the passage of the bill would destroy a branch of industry built up by many years of labor and scientific research, and in which millions of dollars had been spent; that paints and colors needed the protection of the government to fully as great an extent as linseed oil, white lead and chemicals, and that even under the old tariff, American manufacturers with difficulty competed with foreign; that any reduction in the tariff would take away their profits, while if the duty were entirely taken off the manufacture would be annihilated. In this branch of the large amount of machinery specially adapted to the business would be a total loss, or would have to be removed to Canada. It was also shown how other interests would be injured were certain colors placed on the free list as proposed. For instance, if vermillion, or artificial cinnabar, were made duty free, the market would be supplied from China and Spain, the American trade would be ruined, and, in addition, the California quicksilver, now used at home, would be directed to Spain. These representations, fortified by many interesting details, having been made to the appropriate committee of both Houses, received due consideration, and notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of the free traders, the committee acknowledged the justness of the demands by striking from the free list the articles named. The oil and paint business is one of comparatively recent growth in this country, but it has very largely developed within the past five years. There are now twenty establishments for the manufacture of colors, and the consumption of mixed paints for the year 1867 is estimated at one hundred and seventy-four million pounds. Since then the production has largely increased, and every year is becoming greater, owing to the large number of wooden houses built, and the improvement in public taste for decorative painting.

The President, in his last annual Message, indorses the recommendation of the Commissioner of Agriculture, relative to Congressional legislation to induce and protect the planting of forests in those sections which have been denuded of timber; that in disposing of the public lands there shall be a condition reserving one-tenth of it in ti exists, and for planting timber ...ose. Whatever may be th destruction of our native forests ...ads to induce droughts and d... tility of the soil, as well as to such tracts to devastation by fire—it is ... true that the waste should be ... and the supply renewed by fresh planting, for the sake of the timber itself. The recommendation of the Commissioner of Agriculture is sufficiently important from this standpoint alone, if there was nothing else to be gained. But there is high authority for the theory that the native forests serve to retain moisture in the soil, and thereby prevent both drought and floods. The French range of the High Alps, from 1846 to 1866 decreased one-fifteenth in population, owing to its gradually diminishing productiveness. A scientific examination was ordered by the government, and the examiners reported that the destruction of the forests was the cause of the desolation. They found no evidence that the yearly fall of rain was less than formerly, when the region was covered with trees; but on the contrary expressed the belief that a hundred acres of forest will attract no more rain than as many acres of turnips. The forests having been destroyed, however, the evaporation of surface water was greatly increased, and when the rain came the water ran down the slopes in torrents, seaming the mountains with gorges, and filling the valleys with gravel and debris. A portion of the land was replanted with trees, and the balance sodded with grass, and during the six years since the experiments was begun, there has been a very great improvement. Facts like these are worth volumes of theory, and Congress cannot begin too soon to carry out the recommendation relative to our native forests.

Crime in Philadelphia is shown to be on the decrease, by statistics laid before the Grand Jury, by Judge Paxson, at the opening of the December term of the Criminal Court. The number of arrests in the city for the year is about 40,000, or nearly double that of the preceding year. The Judge states that this increased number of arrests does not prove a proportionate increase of crime; for the reason that while the arrests for minor offenses have largely exceeded those of the previous year, burglaries and robberies have decreased. The increased arrests result from the greater efficiency of the police in apprehending those guilty of breaches of the peace, drunkenness, and violations of municipal regulations. In regard to the underlying cause of the great curse of minor offenses, and many of the higher grades, Philadelphia forms no exception to the rule. Judge Paxson says this underlying cause "is to be found in intemperance," and that "there can be no change for the better under our present license system." Some of the newspapers except to the latter assertion, and hold that a proper enforcement of the license laws would greatly abate the evils of intemperance. There are four thousand unlicensed houses in this city, where the worst grades of intoxicating drinks are dealt out to the most degraded classes, and it is contended that if these doggeries were suppressed, crime would be correspondently diminished. Judge Paxson compliments the police on their efficiency in enforcing the laws, but since there are four thousand unlicensed taverns in the city, the compliment smacks of sarcasm.

People generally are beginning to discuss the present system of trial by jury with considerable severity of criticism and distrust. A bill has been introduced into the Legislature of Indiana, which provides that a majority of two-thirds shall be sufficient to secure a verdict, instead of unanimous agreement, as at present required. Other Legislatures, also, in view of the rarity of conviction for the graver crimes, compared with the ever increasing frequency of the crimes themselves, will probably in course of time be compelled to give attention to the matter. Whether the public lies as much in the system as in the manner in which it is conducted is perhaps an open question. With respect to capital crimes, for instance, our jurors are compelled to take facts as elicited by the developments of modern science, and then try them by the strict letter of antiquated law. With not a few other classes of offenses, also, experience has shown that the jury system, as at present in vogue, is rather a protection to the guilty than otherwise than for law abiding citizens. The great aim of counsel appears to be to "hang a jury," as it is called; since if but a single member of that body is so worked upon as to make him doubt, justice is apt to be defeated; while, if he be a civil case, the parties are subjected to additional expense, not to speak of the waste of time and renewed anxiety of mind incident to the frustration of the legitimate objects of ... ...ghout society and the ends of justice are not met under the existing dispensation. How to remedy the evil is the question.

The Agricultural College of Pennsylvania has issued its catalogue for 1872. This institution is under the charge of President James Calder, D. D., and the professors and assistants. It has 156 pupils, classified as follows: seniors, seven; juniors, ten; sophomores, twenty-one; freshmen, forty-two, and in the preparatory school, sixty-eight. Twenty-three of the students are females. At the time of its organization it was the purpose to extend the privileges of the college to male students only, and for twelve years no provision was made for lady students. On September 5th, 1871, the trustees voted to admit both sexes on equal conditions. The college is endowed by the State to the same courses of study as the gentlemen are, subject to the same general rules, and on graduation receive the same degrees and certificates. Such are now the facilities of the college that not for exercise and instruction as prudence dictates are carefully secured. The college is situated in Harris township, Center county, twelve miles south of Bellefonte, accessible to and known to all daily stages over a turnpike road.

The Spanish Minister at Washington has received dispatches showing that great discontent exists in the Spanish military army, which is large, and the events in Cuba as well as at home. General Hidalgo, who has recently been made Captain General of the Basque provinces, is very unpopular with the army, having refused, as Minister of War in a Moderate ministry in 1866, the responsibility of which he succeeded in shirking. On his recent assumption of command, the officers all failed to attend his official reception. It cannot be denied that there exists a deep discontent grew on this, and, according to dispatches, threatens success in its results. Nearly all of the officers of the heavy artillery corps, who are those chiefly concerned, have sent in resignations if the government will not withdraw the order of General, who is, however, likely to offer his resignation, which it is not believed the ministry will accept.

The employment of soluble glass, in the chemical and industrial arts, is constantly increasing, and its value is now fully established. Recently a cement of great hardness and various applicability has been produced by mixing powdered glass and soluble silicate of soda with a heavy body sufficient to secure a very dense, instead of unanimous agreement, as at present required. Other Legislatures, also, in view of the rarity of conviction for the graver crimes, compared with the ever increasing frequency of the crimes themselves, will probably in course of time be compelled to give attention to the matter. Whether the public lies as much in the system as in the manner in which it is conducted is perhaps an open question. With respect to capital crimes, for instance, our jurors are compelled to take facts as elicited by the developments of modern science, and then try them by the strict letter of antiquated law. With not a few other classes of offenses, also, experience has shown that the jury system, as at present in vogue, is rather a protection to the guilty than otherwise than for law abiding citizens. The great aim of counsel appears to be to "hang a jury," as it is called; since if but a single member of that body is so worked upon as to make him doubt, justice is apt to be defeated; while, if he be a civil case, the parties are subjected to additional expense, not to speak of the waste of time and renewed anxiety of mind incident to the frustration of the legitimate objects of ... throughout society and the ends of justice are not met under the existing dispensation. How to remedy the evil is the question.

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The employment of soluble glass, in the chemical and industrial arts, is constantly increasing, and its value is now fully established. Recently a cement of great hardness and various applicability has been produced by mixing different bases with this singular substance. It is found that, combined with fine chalk and thoroughly stirred, it will produce a hard cement in the course of six or eight hours; with fine sand like that of Fontainebleau, a black mass is produced which can be polished with agate, and then possesses a superb metallic lustre. Fine iron dust gives a gray-black cement. Zinc dust produces a gray mass exceedingly hard, with a brilliant metallic lustre, so that broken or defective zinc castings can be mended and restored.

A French chemist proposes a new and unique method of coloring artificial flowers. He selects colors of different tints, soluble in water, and mixes them with a clean mucilaginous gum, and then pours the mixture into a glass funnel, the stem of which is several inches in diameter. The layer is put on uniformly, and the tablets exposed for a time to a well heated stove. The gummy mucilage dries rapidly into a tin polished plate, which after cool separates from the glass and falls off. It may then be reduced to a powder of any required fineness, the result obtained being remarkable for its transparency and permanency. The sheets thus obtained with shallow colors are considered especially beautiful.

Statistics of maritime disasters for the month of October of the present year, from the *International Register of Shipping*, show that Norwegian vessels lost during October 240 sailing vessels and 15 steamers of all flags have been reported lost. Among the former the number lost above ten are as follows: 118 English, 30 Norwegian, 17 Swedish, 12 Danish, 11 French. The American loss of vessels was 9. Of the steamers lost 9 were English, 3 Dutch, and 1 each belonging to the United States, France, Brazil, Norway and Sweden. Among the sailing vessels are 5 and among the steamers 1 reported missing.

The celebration of the tercentenary of John Knox has given birth to one really valuable suggestion. It is that, as there are in Scotland, and in such a place as shall hereafter be agreed upon, there shall be held a grand general council of the Presbyterian churches throughout the world. It is stated that Presbyterianism is now represented in 70 religious congregations and a population of thirty-four millions. Lutheran, and other kindred bodies included, the total swells to fifty-seven millions. Such a council could hardly fail to have a healing and otherwise beneficial influence.

Medical science has lately made a frightful discovery. One of the most eminent professors of Paris has submitted to the Academy the invention of his own to kill animals by blowing air into their eyes. A few seconds only are required for the operation, which, besides, causes little suffering. Experiments, it is affirmed, have been made at Alfort which have succeeded perfectly. One remarkable feature in this new method of killing is that it leaves no trace behind it, and is as applicable to human beings as to animals.

Vick's *Illustrated Floral Guide* for 1873 is the very poetry of catalogueism. Whether considered in its typographical, artistic or literary aspect, it is in all senses creditable to the enterprise, taste and workmanship of its compilers and publishers. The name of Vick, the famous Rochester floriculturist and horticulturist, is a familiar household word throughout the land. The *Guide* will be read and admired by thousands of persons whose homes he has helped to beautify and make attractive.

The Italian opera season came to a close in New York last Saturday, after forty performances, at ten of which Miss Kellogg was the star and Lucca at the other thirty. The performances at which Miss Kellogg was the attraction gave a return of $21,625, and Lucca was worth $128,783, making the gross receipts $150,413. This exceeds by nearly $30,000 the sum that Nilsson brought to the treasury last year.

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Where the Salt in Sea Water Comes From.

Theses depends on the disintegration of rocks on land for its saltness. It does not originate in oceans and seas. Borax wash it and hold it in solution as specific as are formed by volcanic decomposition and gradual action of many natural forces. All these substances are carried, by rivers, and are constantly transporting salt to the sea. If there is no outlet for salt in solution, then it accumulates in masses as in the Caspian Sea, Great Salt Lake, etc. In addition to which matter is subject, may again be a stratum of salt some where remote from the present surface formed, as in Cheshire, England, and the Salt Range of Punjab. An illustrated article on "Salt" in the January, 1873, number of Peck's Sun, and the Seven Wonders, Egypt, The Nile and Assyria, and Ultra Asia, Africa and Europe, Ancient Cities, Temples, Religious Rites and Customs Tombs and Burial Places, Arts, Sciences, Manners and Customs, Pyramids, Sphinxes, Obelisks, Colossi, and other Public Buildings, are striking features of the most popular edition now in the market, and is sold at a popular edition now in the market, and is sold at a popular edition now in the market, and is sold at a